"I am sick and tired of our boys com-

ing back in body-bags," said the Prime Minister of Papua New Guioea, Sir Julius Chan. So he

called in the professionals from the King's Road, 9,000 miles away.

The PNG government has con-tracted Sandline International, a

Bahamian-registered company with

representative offices in London

and Washington DC to assist it in its

operations against rebels in the island of Bougainville who have been

fighting a nine-year guerrilla war

They deny they are mcrcenaries.

We are an international military

consultancy company specialising

to the provision of advice and prob-

lem resolution for legitimate gov-

ernments and international organisations," its Chief Executive

Officer, Tim Spicer, told The

Col Spicer is a former lieuteoant-

colonel in the Scots Guards with 20

ears' experience in the Falklands,

Bosnia, Cyprus, the Gulf War and

Northern Ireland, where he was ap-pointed OBE. A brisk, crisp man, he

was Michael Rose's military attaché

in Bosnia, and knows how to handle

the media. Sandline works out of a s on the King

like the office of an management

Early last year, representatives of

consultancy than a barracks.

against the authorities.

ndependent yesterday.

INSIDE THE TABLOID

TWORK+ How to find a bargain PC Censors on the Web The database of the future—in your fingertip

**PLUS: IT appointments** 



THE TABLOID What girls want from sex education **ANALYSIS** Who cares if the sky is falling? PAGE 14



Owen Gaster, 30, the futuristic tailor, proved himself a cut above at London Fashion Week yesterday when he unveiled his latest 'Chopper' collection. Gaster, one of the few designers to maintain a distinctive style throughout his career, offers a vision for the hard-edged urban woman who is not afraid to power-dress and his Bladerunner-esque models showed off the range to perfection Photograph: Ben Elwes

# Penguin plans to push Puffin out of £35m pecking order

It is apparently a trait of British food company marketing executives that when they look upon a whitechested seabird they immediately think: "chocolate biscuit".

A High Court judge listened yesterday as lawyers represcoting the Asda supermarket chain argued that its range of Puffin chocolate hiscuits was not a copy of the 60-year-old Peogum hrand. United Biscuits, which sells £35m worth of Penguins a year, is suing Asda for alleged trademark infringement and "passing off".

To even the most junior hirdfancier there would be little difficulty in telling the two creatures apart.

Penguins are flightless spheniscidae, which propel themselves through water with their wings and nest oo the ground in the Southern

alcidae, strong flyers which nest in cliffs in the Northern Hemisphere. But lawyers for UB do not believe

that ornithology is a popular pastime within the ranks of the chocolate biscuit-huying public. They argued vesterday that the existence of the two brands would cause great confusioo. A successioo of Liverpool shoppers testified that they had thought Puffins were made by the same company as Penguins. One, Pauline Bennett, explained that they were water hirds beginning with "p and ending with "n".

"What about a pigeon?" challenged Gordon Pollock, Asda's QC. They wouldn't hang around wa-

ter," Ms Bennett told the court. UB's counsel, Michael Bloch, said there was "no ioherent connection" between seahirds and chocolate his-

Hemisphere. Puffins, by contrast, are cuits which could excuse the copy ing. The only connection was with UB's particular distinctive product. Asda had eveo adapted UB's slogan by urging consumers to "pick up a Puffin", complained Mr Bloch at

the start of a 10-day hearing. Asda insisted the names and the depiction of the bird character were very different. It contended that any similarines would be recognised by the public as simply a humorous reference by Asda to the famous Peoguio and therefore would cause no confusion.

The court heard that packaging designers had been asked by the supermarket chain to come up with a hrand-beater to rival the Penguin. While they considered the suitability

of a variety of birds as the symbol of

the oew biscuit, "P-pick up a guille-

mot" does not have appear to have

even made it to the drawing-board.

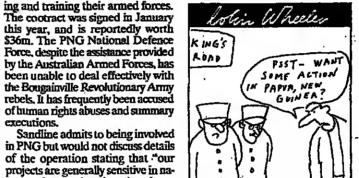
rebels. It has frequently been accused of human rights abuses and summary Sandline admits to being involved in PNG but would not discuss details

The cootract was signed in January

of the operation stating that "our projects are generally sensitive in nature and we apply strict rules of confidentiality to our work and client relationships." However, Australian newspapers have reported that PNG planned to bring in up to 150 foreign-hired soldiers for an operation to capture or kill the leaders of the pro-independence Bougainville Revolutionary Army.

Sir Julius Chan said yesterday that the team we have hired to train our Security Force members are not cowboys, they are a reputable professional company who are part of our manyfaceled strategy to reach a lasting solution to this particular crisis, as well as other matters of national security."

Sandline considers itself and one or two other companies to be at the leading edge of a global trend in priwith the latest technology and ex- nation states with their internal sepensive modern art on the wall, more curity problems. It calls upon the resources of a oumber of different specialist sub-contractors in Britain, the US and South Africa, and these Sandline were approached by the include ex-members of the UK, US PNG government to assist in advis- and South African special forces.



the jungle rebels

'Security firm' hired to end guerrilla war

The precedents for the use of private security companies to tackle civil wars were set by the South Africa-based Executive Outcomes (EO) in Angola and Sierra Leone. Sandline emphatically denies that it is a subsidiary of EO, though it has "sub-contracted" some work in PNG to them, says Col Spicer. "We have a high regard for the professionalism of Executive Outcomes, but we are

not the same company," he adds. with companies whose directors inoessman who introduced EO into Angola, their first hig contract.

Col Spicer says Sandline was established in the early 1990s in order "to fill a vacuum in the post-Cold War

era, to offer governments specialist military expertise at a time when Western nations' desire to provide active support to resolve overseas conflicts has materially decreased, as has their capability to do so.

It is an independent entity privately owned by senior ex-military personnel from the UK and US armed forces. The company is registered in Nassau, Bahamas.

Like its competitors, the US-based Military Personnel and Resources Incorporated and EO, it shies away from the label of mercenary. It claims that it will only accept projects that "receive the endorsement of the international community." To this end it declares that it has four operating principles. It will only undertake projects acceptable to key Western wernments, such as the US and the UK. It will only undertake operations that are legal and moral. It works on behalf of internationally recognised government regimes. And operations must be conducted within the

boundaries of client governments. The employment of Sandime international has embarrassed the Australian government, which enjoys good relations with PNG and trains their Defence Force. During question time yesterday in the Australian Parliament, the Prime Minister stated: "We have no sympathy for the I which has carried out a great deal of clude Tony Buckingham, the busi- violence and has constantly obstructed talks. But we are convinced that military action is not the answer, that only a negotiated settlement can

offer a long-term solution." Ragged rebellion, page 11

# Tories will sell off Underground if they win pol

Colin Brown and Randeep Ramesh

John Major will take ao electinn gamble today with the announcement that Loodon Underground is to be privatised if the

lories are returned to office. The go-ahead for the privatisation of the Tube, which carries millions of vot-ers in the crucial Snuth East, was sanctioned at a Downing Street strategy meeting of Cabinet ministers to approve the manifestn. It will be announced in the Commons today by Sir George Young, the Secretary of State for Transport, although the plan alarmed some ministers earlier this month wheo it was first ap-proved at the Chequers Cabinet oo the

draft election manifesto. The announcement was delayed by a damaging and embarrassing leak, but Sir George persuaded colleagues to go ahead with the plan on the grounds that the Tube needs investment, and it can only get it if t is put in private hands. Labour helieves it is a gilt-edged gift for its own election campaign against the "fat cats" who have profited from other privatisations. The Un-derground would carry with it some highly lucrative real estate in the capital, and the leaked document suggested it could

be sold off at a knock-down price. The statement in the Commons today will mark clear differences between the two parties. John Prescott, the deputy leader of the Labour Party, said last night that the Government had adopted the "Prescott formula" for keeping the Post Office in public hands, while allowing it

to raise private finance. "It shows that they are privatising the Tube system out of pure political spite," he said.

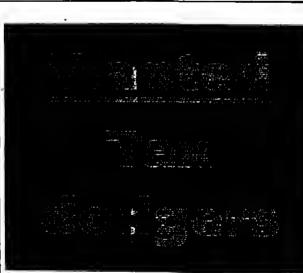
Andrew Smith, shadow transport secretary, said Labour would huild partnerships with private firms to raise investment for the Tube, as well as retaining public control over the system. He attacked the Tory plan as a "nightmare vision" for a fifth term, which could lead to closures of stations in the outer Londoo suburbs.

The leaked Cahinet memo to the Prime Minister by Sir George said: "The Un-derground will be a unique and very difficult privatisation to sell to the public". Although the details of the sell-off have yet to be finalised. Downing Street favours a model which would see a single body reg-

ulating levels of service and fares and then franchise groups of lines. Another scheme. which would have floated Londoo Underground un the stock market and given shares to commuters, was quickly shelved after criticisms that it would have created a "private monopoly".

The Cabinet committee meeting yesterday approved the final draft of the Tory manifesto, including more parental choice in schools, an expansion of Workstart in which those on the dole will have to work for their benefits; and a switch to more self-provision in welfare through insurance. Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, will today return to the attack on Labour over tax with alleged new Treasury calculations. which he claims will mean higher taxes under a Labour government, a charge

Comment: Donald Macintyre, page 15



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Bridgewater ethics The chief constable of the police force whose officers fabricated evidence in the Bridgewater case said that, at that time. ethics were not considered important.

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Starvation warning Dementia sufferers are being left to starve in NHS hospitals and care homes by staff who do not understand their condition, the Alzheimer's Disease Society has warned.

THE BROADSHEET

Foreign News .....9-11 THE TABLOID

Radio & TV ......15,16 Home News .......2-8 Phil Hammond MD ....3 Weather .......14



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## significant shorts

#### **Havoc threat to the South** from worst storm in years

Southern Britain was bracing itself for the worst storms for seven years as darkness fell last night. Weather forecasters warned of damage from severe storms racing in from the Atlantic bringing 90mph winds. Tidal warnings for the south-west coasts were issued by the Environment Agency. "Amber" warnings of waves crashing over sea walls and beaches were issued for north Cornwall, oorth Devon and Chesil Bank in south

The Meteorological Office said Britain was going through the most sustained period of strong winds since January and February 1990. It predicted driving rain and winds of only 10mph less than the hurricane force winds of 1987 in some areas. Most of southern Britain as far north as Bristol was due to be hit by the storms, according to a Met Office spokesman. Andy Yeatman. "It's always difficult to say how much damage will be done but building damage might not be quite as bad as in 1990,"

#### Mrs Howard denies jail comment

The wife of Home Secretary Michael Howard yesterday instructed ber lawyer to write to Granada TV, two newspapers, publisher Penguin, and former the Prison Service chief Derek Lewis, denying claims that she had urged her husband to cut the outritional content of food served to Britain's prisoners. Granada TV's World in Action, screened last night, contained an interview with Mr Lewis in which he made the allegations about Sandra Howard, the model Sandra Paul. John Turnbull, of Linklaters & Paines, said: "She never said or suggested that any actual or proposed nutritional standards at Her Majesty's Prisons were too generous. Mr Lewis has told World in Action that he was taken aside by Mr Howard's political adviser, David Cameron, in 1994 and told that Mrs Howard believed that "the prison code's requirements to provide a halanced and nutritious diet was somehow too generous for prisoners". Mr Lewis was sacked by Mr Howard in 1995 after the escape of inmates

#### Secret reburial for Moors victim



The body of Moors murder victim Lesley Ann Downey has been exhumed and reburied after a series of attacks on her grave, her mother revealed yesterday. Ann West, 67, asked for special permission to move her daughter from the Southern Cemetery in Manchester last year after vandals struck for a third time. Graffiti calling for killer Myra Hindley to be freed from jail was daubed on the marble headstone in August on what would have been Lesley Ann's birthday, Lesley Ann was

#### reburied in a private ceremony in a new, secret grave. Hunt for student's killer goes cold

Detectives hunting the killer of A-level student Nicola Dixon have carried out DNA tests oo 20 men from the Suttoo Coldfield area but have failed to find a match for the profile obtained from substances left at the murder scene. Police are anxious to speak to a man seen running down Trinity Hill at around 10.25pm on the night of the murder who was wearing a purple tracksuil with a stripe down the side, and is described as white, aged 19-25. They also want to speak to the driver of a Ford Fiesta car seen in the area, described as white, aged 20-25, with short fair hair

#### Thais suspect man killed himself

A British man whose body was found tied to a pler in Thailand may have committed suicide, it emerged yesterday. Geoffrey Chapman, 54, was found strapped to a pole oo a pier at Sri Racha beach, 95 miles southeast of Bangkok, at low tide oo Sunday. It was initially thought that Mr. Chapman, who was originally from Scarborough, North Yorkshire, could have been murdered. But Thai police said today there were no signs of a struggle, although Mr Chapman is thought to have been weighed down by a rock tied around his legs. .

#### Waste scheme goes down drain

One of Britain's biggest plastics recycling schemes is folding at the end of this week with the organisers blaming the Government. The scheme recovered more than 8,000 tonnes of used polythene film from Britain's farms over two years. But the 18 rival manufacturing companies who joined to run it are halting collections and farmers will have to go back to treating polythene as waste. The 18 lost business to two other firms who refused to join the scheme and were able to sell their polythene cheaper. The Government is blamed for oot bringing in regulations to penalise Nicholas Schoon "free riders" who undermine recycling schemes.

#### Bloody Sunday review delayed

The discovery of possible new evidence about the Bloody Sunday killings led to the withdrawal vesterday of a court action for judicial review. A request to take the case out of the Belfast High Court list for tomorrow was made by lawyers for a sister of one of the victims. No reason was given in court but afterwards solicitor Angela Ritchie said information had been received "which may ultimately result in receipt by us of important new evidence". It was understood that she was referring to two recent television programmes which appeared to confirm claims that soldiers, other than paratroopers, were shooting from Londonderry walls when 14 people were killed oo January 30 1972.

#### Four iailed for drugs smuggling plot

Four men, including one described by the judge as a "bent copper", were jailed for a total of 41 years for a £2m drugs smuggling plot. The four appearing at Canterbury Crown Court were Kenneth Harris, 43, of Welling, David Ng. 37, of Winchester Road, London; John Illingworth, 39, of Greenwich, and serving Metropolitan policeman Ronald Palumbo, 31, of Chingford, Essex. Harris was jailed for 12 years, Ng and Palumbo for 10 and Illingworth for nine years. The court heard cannabis with a street value of more than £15m was found concealed in a trailer of a lorry owned by Harris. The lorry was stopped at Dover in November 1995.

#### Mother threw her baby off bridge

A schizophrenic woman who killed her 16-week-old son by throwing him off a river bridge was ordered to be detained in hospital indefinitely. Lisa Whayman, 33, of Worlingworth, Suffolk, threw baby Daniel off the Orwell Bridge near toswich in August last year, Norwich Crown Court was told. Whayman denied murder but admitted manslaughter. Her plea was accepted by the prosecution. The judge ordered that she be detained at a psychiatric hospital until mental health authorities deemed her fit to resume a normal life.

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## people



Larry Flynt, playing a judge in the award-winning film about his life

# Life of Larry turns to gold as Church attacks sacrilege

film about the life of Larry Flynt, the notorious US publisher, won the Berlin Film Festival's top award – the Golden Bear – yesterday, edging aside The English Patient. The two are expected to be

competing for the top honours in the Oscars.

The People v Larry Flynt, made by Milos Forman, the Oscar-winning director of Amadeus and One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, depicts the tumultuous career of Flynt, a school drop-out who ran strip clubs in Ohio before launching his successful porn magazine, Hustler in 1273.

over the promotional posters. These show Woody Harrelson, who plays Flynt, wearing a stars-and-stripes loincloth, with his arms outstretched as if crucified, sud on the groin of a bikini-clad

Yesterday Forman ordered the removal of the posters in France, where they had prompted tha Catholic Church to being a lawsuit. Magain Thome, a lawyer for Columbia Pictures, told the French court of appeals that the posters would be removed "in the spirit of appeasement and to cut short" any efforts by opponents to profit from the controversy.

The president of the Conference of Bishops of France, Monsignor Louis-Marie Bille, said it was unacceptable to compare Christ's crucifixion with the ordeal of "e pornographer", referring to Flynt. The poster had al-ready been rejected by the Motion Picture Associa-

Tunnel visionary

to give lift to

Manchester

runway protest

Swampy (right) is to lend his tun-

nel-digging expertise to protesters against the planned second run-

way at Manchester Airport. The 23-year-old, whose real

name is Daniel Neede, made

headlines last month when he

near Honiton, Devon.

spent seven deys underground

holding up work on the A30 road

Protesters at Manchester Airport claim to have already dug be-

tween three and four tunnels in

woodland at tha and of tha exist-

ing runway, two of which have ac-

to delay and even prevent tha pro-

posed £172m second runway, al-

though details of the fortified

tunnels already built are being

kept secret for tactical reasons.

Melanie, 27, a demonstrator

from Manchester, said: "We have

heard Swampy is on his way. We

are looking forward to his support.

which can help ue and it will help

with the publicity, because he is

About 40 people are taking part

in the protest, which is continuing

despite warnings by police that

methane in the ground is putting

the demonstrators' lives at risk. A

spokesman for Manchester Airport

Meanwhile, the former Beirut

hostage Terry Waite gave the anti-

Obviously he has experience

already so famous."

declined to comment.

tivists eleeping in them. They hope

Catholic Church branded it offensive and sacrilegious. . However, despite missing out on the top honour at Berlin, The English Patient did not go unrewarded. Juli-et Binoche was named best actress for her role in the film, which won 12 Oscar nominations. Best actor went to Leonardo di Caprio, for his leading role in Romeo and Juliet and the Silver Bear was awarded to the Tai-

wanese film He Liu, which means the river. The 12 Oscar nominations for The English Patient have boosted US sales of Michael Ondaatje's Book-- With a cameo appearance by Flynt himself (ironl-cally playing a member of the legal establishment with which he found himself in conflict), the flat has sparked: and the British opening of the film on 14 March will massive controversy in the US and elsewhere, notably er Prize-winning novel on which it is based by 400 per coincide with a concerted campaign to market tie-in editions of the hook by Macmillan, the parent company of Ondazije's publisher, Picador. Canny publishers have always profited from tie-in

titions of books adapted for film and TV. The recent spate of Jane Austen dramatisations spawned new paperback versions of the novels with costumed stars on their covers. Furging with its vast backlist Lau-ally does best with "classic" adaptations. Jane Campion's new film of Henry James's The Portrait of a Lady has inspired a Penguin reprint complete with 8 pages of colour photos of its stars, including Nicole Kidman, John Malkovich and Richard E Grant. And Oxford recently persuaded Kenneth Branagh to approve the use of a still from his film on its paperback edition of Hamlet. He requested no fee, but he did ask for e com-plete set of Oxford's World's Classics. Boyd Tonkin

#### MP presses for remembrance at slave wreck site

The Labour MP Bernie Grant yesterday said that he would visit the excavation site on the Devon coast which contains the mass grave of shipwrecked slaves. As many as 60 people are

thought to have perished when the treasure ship London went down near Rapparee Cove, Ilfracombe, nearly 200 years ago.

Skull bones, confirmed as being of African descent, and now tha top half of a skeleton, heve been uncovered during the last three weeks by storms and the work of local archaeologists.

A spokeswoman for Mr Grant said he was deeply upset by the discovery and would be visiting the area on Sunday to pay his

"He is trying to ensure the grave ba treated with all due reverence, and has spoken to the director of the lifracombe museum, who shares the same view," she said. "The site is part of a renaissance of black history and will be of interest to a large number of people. It will become a place of remambrance."

She added the site is as important to the young black community as the Tower of London, for example, is for white people. It is believed the area could

also hold the African Reparation Movement's annual ceremony, which Mr Grant founded, to commemorate those who have died during slavery.

## briefing

## More directors disqualified since accounting reform

The number of directors banned or disqualified from running limited companies shot up by nearly 50 per cent in 1996, according to figures released yesterday by the Department of Trade and Industry. Last year, 946 directors were disqualified as unlit, up from 633 in 1995, while actions were started against 1,370 - 20 per from 633 in 1995, while actions were started against 1,370 - 20 per from 633 in 1995.

cent more than the year before.

Of those, 273 were hanned by the courts from running companies for a range of offences, including embezzlement and dishonest accounting. Commenting on the disqualification rigures, John Taylor, the DTI's corporate and consumer affairs minister. said: "High standards are essential to sustain the confidence of

suppliers, creditors, employees, and investors.

He said the rise in disqualifications was partly due to new reporting standards introduced last September which make it easier for insolvency accountants to identify and report

News of the increase came as the DTI confirmed it would be attempting to disqualify 10 directors of Barings, the investment bank which lost more than £800m through the actions of the regue trader, Nick Leeson.

#### HEALTH

#### Over-50s are couch potatoes

The North West has the biggest number of couch potatoes among people over 50, while people in East Anglia are the most active in England, according to new research from the Health Education

Anthority.

The study of 4,300 people between 50 and 74 found that nationally, more than seven out of 10 men and eight out of 10 nationally, more than seven out of 10 men and eight out of 10 nationally, more than seven out of 10 men and eight out of 10 nationally. women over 50 did not take part in sufficient activity to benefit their health. Instead, they turned on the TV, with women watching an average of 21 hours and men an average of 19 hours of

Once they had switched off the TV, a quarter of older women (aged 70-74) did not have enough strength in their legs to get out of a chair without using their arms. And over a third of women and nearly one in 10 men aged 50-74 were unable to walk at a 20 television per week.



#### LOTTERY

#### Grants criticised as too high-brow

Local communities feel left out by National Lottery funding and think high-brow arts projects are gelting too large a share of the pot, according to a survey published loday. Two in three people believe too much money goes towards projects which only benefit wealthy art lovers.

The NOP study also revealed a belief that funding is biased wards cities rather than rural areas, and that people from the north think too much money is spent in the south.

Eighty-four per cent believe charity should begin nearer to home and more lottery cash should find its way into local community projects. And more than three quarters think they should have

more say in where the money goes.

Two-thirds of people, questioned in the survey for the Somerfield supermarket chain, expressed disapproval over the

Royal Opera House receiving lottery money.

While 85 per cent felt raising mooey for charities through the lottery was a good thing, 70 per cent were baffled by the criteria used to select recipients, and a similar majority wanted a greater say in which organisations received money.

#### MEDIA

#### Friends top TV ratings for teens

Friends, the cult US sitcom series, is the most popular programme among 13- to 16-year-olds, with 57 per cent voting it among their favourite shows. Eastenders, X-Files, Home and Away and Neighbours are also big hits with this teenage group. These are among the latest findings by Media 2000, a research project which tracks the changing tastes and attitudes of London schoolchildren.

Two-thinds of the sample said they would like to see more music

and comedy on TV. The same high proportion have a TV in their bedroom. The favourite advertisement among these young teenagers -who watch nearly bour and a half bours of TV every day, on average - is the controversial Blackcurrant Tango commercial. Media 2000 was devised and conducted by Andy Hearnshaw and Nigel of BBJ Media Services and is analysed by Carat Research.

#### **EDUCATION**

#### GCSE retakes are often wasted

The vast majority of school-leavers who turn to further education colleges to retake GCSEs still fail to achieve even four exam passes on their second attempt, new figures reveal. A report on GCSE courses in sixth form and general FE colleges suggests that, for many students, resits do no more than reinforce a sense of failure and decrease motivation. The study, by the colleges' inspection body, uncavers a high

drop-out rate on retake courses, as well as poor results and low attendance. In 1994-5, the latest year for which figures are available, fewer than one in ten 16-19-year-old students attempting five GCSE retakes passed them all, and more than a fifth passed none at all.

The inspectors say taking general vocational qualifications instead of re-attempting GSCEs may hold the key to breaking the pattern of failure.



**NEWSPAPERS** 

SUPPORT RECYCLING Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

# FROM THE OVERTURE TO THE ENCORE.

runway protesters e hoost by of-

by Styal, visited tha demonstra-

tors' camp and signed a green-

skies document protesting about

But Mr Waite refused to back il-

legal tactics adopted by some en-

very respectable groups and asso-

"I myself would not break the

science." Mr Waite gave evidence

months ago opposing the runway

but the inspector ruled against the

at the 101-day public inquiry 18

law. I would not do thet. That is

down to the individual con-

vironmental protesters. "These

people are taking direct action

and have tha support of some

the environmental impact of the

air-transport industry.

ciations," he said.

protesters.

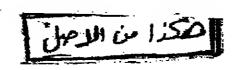
fering his support for their cause.

Mr Waite, who was bom in near-



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# Research casts doubt on cot death theory

Social Affairs Correspondent

Antimony, the substance which has been hlamed for causing cot deaths, has been found to be so common it can be measured in

The findings call into ques-tion the theory which caused near panic among parents when it was publicised on the ITV rogramme The Cook Report in

Antimooy is used as a fire retardant in mattresses, and the research scientist Barry Richardsoo claims that the combinatioo ofa fungus in mattresses and urine and perspiration from the baby can combine with antimony to form a letbal gas. After the programme, Boots and other retailers with-

led to an increase of almost a

fifth in the oumber of acute

meningitis cases ootified for

Eogland and Wales, writes

But this has not translated

into cases confirmed in the lab-

oratory, the Public Health Lab-

oratory Service said yesterday,

putting the increase down to

greater awareness among doc-

tors of the dangers of the dis-

Acute ootified cases reached

The National Meningitis

2,700 in 1996 compared with

2,300 in 1995 – an increase of

Trust said it was disappointed

particularly as the number of

notified cases bad been below

Much of the decrease in cas-

es befween 1992 and 1994 was .

due to the success of the Hib

vaccine for the under-fours which was introduced in 1992."

with the "moderate increase"

around 17 per cent.

2,000 m 1994.

Glenda Cooper.

Crucial to Mr Richardson's theory was the idea that anti-only way babies can absorb anmony is found in mattresses bot timony is through mattresses. rarely encountered anywhere

But Mike Thompson, reader in analytic chemistry at Birheck College. University of London said antimony found in habies does oot oecessarily come from mattresses. He added that he was "very

surprised" at the the levels of antimony he discovered. When dust samples were taken from 100 bomes at random around Britain, antimony was found in housedust at between 10 and 20. parts per million, compared with rocks and soil where it is found in 0.5 parts per million.

worked through the figures - all

of which serves to illustrate

the vital importance of vaccine

priority to the search for vac-

cines in its funding policy and

cootinues to rely on the gen-

erosity of the public, and in-

creasingly industry and commerce, to keep its selected

research projects up to speed."

Public Health Laboratory Ser-

vice said that the increase in cas-

es could actually be a good sign

because it meant that doctors

were becoming more aware of

diseases whereby doctors have a statutory duty to alert the lo-

cal authority when cases occur. The number of cases coo-

firmed by the laboratory be-

tween 1 July 1995 and 4

February 1996 was 998 but this dropped to 953 between 1 July

Meningitis is a "ootifiable"

the symptoms of meningitis.

But a spokeswoman for the

The trust has always giveo

development.

GPs report more

meningitis cases

Receot meningitis scares have "The effects of this bave now

said Ray Thompson of the trust. 1996 and 4 February 1997.

timony which means they must think it is significant. Previously the problem was that no-one Joyce Epstein, general sec-retary of the Foundation for the

would say it is relevant."

Later this week Penguin will also publish a book called The Cot Death Cover Up? by the New Zealand forensic scientist Jim Sprott, which also claims that antimony and phosphorous are behind unexplained infant

funded the research, said yes-

terday: "Richardson claims the

We have found that antimony

is everywhere around you, in or-

dinary household dust as well as

lots of other places. The corol-

lary of that is there is no evi-

deoce, first, that antimony

causes cot deaths or, second

that there is a problem with

mattresses ... even if antimony

was a problem, you cannot fin-

ger mattresses as being the

Guernsey said: "It is interesting

they are doing research on an-

only source

Cot deaths have fallen from 912 in 1991 to the current rate of between 300 and 400 a year. The lowering of the cot death rate is thought to be due to the "Back to Sleep" campaign launched in December 1991.

The campaign advised par-ents not to let babies sleep on their stomachs, oot to let them become too hot or cold, and to keep them away from cigarette smoke. A survey in 1995 revealed that a baby whose mother and father smokes is five times more likely to be a cot death victim than one in a con-

smoking bome. ■ The number of cot deaths in the Irish Republic sbot up by 23 per cent last year after decreasing by 70 per ceot in a previous five-year period, according to new figures.

The rise in fatalities has still to be fully analysed, bot Tom Matthews, professor of paediatrics at University College, Dublin said the deaths were be ing associated with one or both parents smoking and with social deprivation.



The Spice Girls: Nominated for the Best Group award

Photograph: PA



# Comedian holds court at the Brits

The success of the Brits ceremony, the biggest annual music awards, last night rested on the fast-talking comedian Ben Elton to keep the audience amused at Earl's Court in west London.

Choosing the bost has been fraught with difficulty ever since a notorious performance of fluffed lines by Mick Fleetwood and Samantha Fox. The Fleetwood Mac drummer Mick - six-and-a-half foot tall - and the diminutive model and pop singer could hardly fit in the same close-up, let alone manage a seamless witty presenta-tion. That year - 1989 - marked a low point for the show, which became a langhing stock.

The past two years have seen frenetic former Radio 1 disc jockey Chris Evans doing the bonours, with rather more professionalism than most of his predecessors. But after last year's sensational stage invasion by pop star Jarvis Cocker, Evans announced that he would not

host the Brits again. So, this year it is Ben Elton's turn. The former Saturday Night Live compere has matured into a successful novelist and behindthe-scenes scriptwriter of The Thin Blue Line. He is now 37 and almost respectable. He has

attacked Hollywood's culture of violence in his latest book Pepcom: But he is still just dangerous enough to hold the respect of the pop audience.

And since the ceremony was not shown live, Brit producers knew that they could edit any dubious gags before today's

television screening.
The Bee Gees were named winners of the Outstanding Contribution to the British Music Industry award ahead of the ceremony, but among the nominations were George Michael. Mark Morrison, Simply Red, Sting, and Tricky as best male solo artist. Contenders for best female solo artist were Dina Carroll, Gabrielle, Donna Lewis, Louise, Eddi Readur. and for best group, Kula Shaker, Lightning Seeds, Manie Street Preachers, Spice Girls.

Best album oominees: K by Kula Shaker, Ocean Drive by Lighthouse Family, Everything Must Go by Manic Street Preachers. Older by George Michael, and Moseley Shoals by Ocean Colour Sceoe. Oasis won this category last year with (What's The Story) Morning Glory? This year The Manics' have triumphed in every uther poll, and should do here, too.

# Billie-Jo's foster father questioned over her death

Crime Correspondent

The foster father of Billie-Jo Jenkins, the 13-year-old girl who was found beateo to death at her home 11 days ago, was being questioned last night in connection with ber killing.

Sioo Jenkins, 39, a deputy headmaster, was arrested early in the morning by police in Hastings, East Sussex. Billie-Jo died after being bat-

tered over the head with a 18in metal tent spike as she painted the patio doors in the back garden of her home in Hastings. Mr Jenkins and his wife, Lois, held a press conference shortly after the killing on 15 February at which they said that

their 10-year-old daughter was the first to discover the body of Billie-Jo. Mr Jenkins had returned home with two of his four natural daughters from a music lesson after leaving Billie-Jo alooe for 40 minutes, the conference was told.



Mr and Mrs Jenkins, who last December assumed legal guardianship of Billie-Jo after fostering her for four years, said that they were devastated at the loss of their daughter.

The couple said they had heeo plagued by prowlers and



dren. But January has been a very strange and uneasy month.
"As a family, we have felt un-

ouisance telephone calls and had felt a "sense of unease" since January, Mr Jenkins said: "We moved to the house because of the park and because of the chilcasion I was looking out of the hack window and I thought I saw movement. I switched oo the outside security light and got a fleeting glimpse of somebody moving about. Another time I saw somebody in the park staring at the house.

Mrs Jenkins, 35, a social services project manager in east London, said: "We had decided to move house because of the problems in the area."

The couple did not contact the police about the recent prowlers and telephone calls. Mr Jenkins was heing ques-tioned by detectives at Hastings police statioo last night. He is the third man to be arrested. A 36-year-old man was released after questioning and a 44 year-old local man was released into secure psychiatric care.

A spokesman for Sussex Police said yesterday: "A local man in his thirties was arrest-

# I want more flexible communications I want to send information faster I want to reduce my bills ISDN

# Duke joins forces with 'Viz' founder to recreate the golden age of steam

One of the strangest alliances in railway history occurred yesterday as Chris Donald, creator of the anarchic adult comic Viz, joined forces with the Duke of Northumberland in an attempt to recreate the golden age of steam train travel.

Mr Dooald, who is responsible for bringing the likes of Johnoy Fartpants and the Fat Slags to Britain's news-stands, fulfilled a life-long ambition when be unveiled the £5m dream for a three-mile "castle- to-coast" service from Alnwick to Alnmouth. It is hoped the Aln Valley railway will run trains throughout the summer, and the trust backing the project believes it would generate £1.5m a year for the local economy.

Mr Donald, a railway fanat-ic who admitted that if he won the lottery he would buy his own

¦ **+** 

dooating an engine worth

tributed to the launch by Northumberland He said: "1 am a huff, hut I a have always £15,000. He already owns three been particularly interested in former train stations and lives preserving the lines around



Chris Donald with a steam engines Photograph: Stuart Outterside

very cynical, but when the idea was explained to me it seemed fairly sensible. As the father of two young children who read Thomas the Tank Engine hooks I am always being pestered to take them for a ride on a steam train. It's every trainspotter's dream to open up an old branch line and run a steam line."

And on the question of whether this venture would result in a new Viz hero, he said there was always a chance: The characters in the comic tend to be people you meet, and I bave met a myriad of disgusting trainspotters, which all nelps with source material."

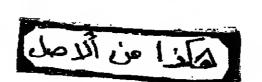
More than 100 corporate heads and business leaders were invited to Alnwick Castle to see the plans for themselves as the trust courts would-be financial backers. The duke himself bas accepted the role of president.

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## Nursery schools plea for £50m

Lucy Ward Education Correspondent

An extra £50m investment in nursery education is needed next year to give all children the chance of high-quality preschooling, campaigners said

The Pre-School Learning Alliance said the money would ensure wider access to nursery schools, including free places for 27,000 three-year-olds from poorer homes

It would also pay for 250 new nursery schools, more training for staff and courses for 15,000 parents in child development

and parenting.
The PLA set out its demands as part of a 10-point manifesto for improving nursery education directed at the government taking power after the general election. Though the organisa-tion insisted it was not attempting to influence parents' voting intentions, it renewed its attack on the effects of nursery vouchers, due to be introduced nationally on 1 April.

Campaigners claim vouchers, which have been piloted in four local authority areas for the past year, will cause the closure of up to 800 playgroups around the country as schools rush to hring four-year-olds into reception

The PLA claims rural areas including Devon. Sussex and Worcestershire will be worst hit. as numbers of under-fives will be too low to support a range of pre-school provision. It says thousands of three-year-olds, who are not eligible for vouchers, will be left with no chance of a pre-school place if voluntary-sector playgroups close.

In its "10 steps" for nursery education, the PLA calls on the Government to intervene, using legislation if necessary, to stop primary schools "putting undue pressure on parents" to send four-year-olds to reception

Though ministers have asked schools not to do so, the free market thinking behind youchers means they are unlikely to impose any regulation.

Labour has pledged to abolish the voucher scheme if elected, hut will honour vouchers already issued.



IRA gun victim buried on birthday

The IRA mander of a young soldier should act as a "catalyst to restart the peace process", his funeral was told vesterday.

Lance Bombardier Stephen Restorick, of the 3rd Regiment. Royal Horse Artillery, who was shot dead by a sniper at an Army checkpoint in South Armagh, was buried on the day of his 24th birthday.

The service, at Peterborough Crematorium. Cambridgeshire. was attended by the local MP and Conservative Party chairman, Brian Mawhinney, and the Irish Ambassador to London.

Edward Barrington. Two Ulster Unionist councillors and more than 200 members of his family, friends and colleagues were also there to hid farewell to the young soldier. Well-wishers outside listened on loudspeakers as a Humanist minister, John Pearce, said his death had touched the hearts of many people in all parts of the British Isles. "We have to hope that his death will be a catalyst to restart the peace process and bring both sides together to talk," Mr Pearce said.

The soldier, whose family live in Peterborough, died on 12 February, during his second tour of duty in Northern Ireland, from a single shot which narrowly

missed his bulletproof vest. Marjorie Mowlam, page 15

# Police chief admits faults of Seventies

lason Bennetto Crime Correspondent

The chief constable of the police force whose officers are accused of fahricating a confession in the Bridgewater case admitted yesterday that at the time of the investigation ethics considered important.

Edward Crew, Chief Constable of the West Midlands Police, said: \*Back in the Seveoties, we would arrest somebody, we would interrogate them and then we might bother to look for other evidence if they didn't admit it."

Hickey and James Robinson were released on bail on Friday pending a full appeal hearing, after the High Court heard that the West Midlands force had used a forged confession to secure evidence, which led to the conviction of the Bridgewater Four.

The three men served 18 years for the murder of newspaper hoy Carl Bridgewater. A fourth man, Patrick Molloy, who was also jailed, died in custody in 1981.

The Chief Constable's comments have angered the Bridgewater campaigners who have accused him of trying to Michael Hickey, Vincent justify past wrongdoing.

Mr Crew, who at the time of is a price worth paying. There Police and Criminal Evidence the Bridgewater case was serving as an officer in the Metropolitan Force, said that as an officer working in the late tify locking up an innocent per-Seventies he could not recall

behaviour" being used in the "They weren't actually important to us.

'We can't go on like that, and quite simply we have moved away from that, from those sorts of ways of doing business.

"words like ethics and ethical

Family and friends watch as the body of IRA victim, Lance Bombardier Stephen Restorick, is carried into Peterborough Crematorium yesterday

"I have to say that if the penalty we pay it that guilty people walk away and don't get convicted, and I suspect there are many of those, that

are never any circumstances, and I have never believed there have been, in which one can jus-

He was asked in an interview if interrogations in the Seventies could ever get "rough". He replied: "Of course they could,"

But he added: "Even in those days there was never, ever, an expectation that police officers would hreak the law - the substantial change has come about in the culture in which we

port is likely to go to the CPS. Ann Whelan, the mother of Michael Hickey, said yesterday that despite the Chief Consta-Since the Bridgewater case there have been important hle's assurances of a full inveschanges in the law, such as the

would try to ignore evidence of case, and other unnamed offi-Act (Pace). This insists that police corruption as it had hapmterrogated suspects be alpened so long ago. They still have to put things lowed a solicitor and the record-

Photograph: Brian Harris

ing of police interviews, and on right. They can't say just because the creation of an independent there weren't any safeguards then, 'We can ignore it.' "What they are saying is, Well until the safeguards came The Chief Constable said if any of his officers had commit-

in we could do as we like". West Midlands press office yesterday said that Mr Crew's comments had been taken out of cootext.

The solicitors for retired Detective Constable Graham Leake, whom the High Court was told by defence QC had almost certainly written a false tigation she still feared that they confession in the Bridgewater Perkins, has since died.

cers, yesterday issued a statement denying "any improper practice". The former detective. the statement said, had been subjected to a campaign of harassmeot and vilification. la continued: "It is not uncommon for alleged 'miscarriages of justice' to engender severe criticism of the conduct of police officers during which allegations are treated as proven facts, but when charges are later brought it is found that these widely reported allegations are not supported by evidence. The other officer involved. Detective Constable John

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# ideo use may be increased

The police are considering ex- and Wales - Kent, the Metropanding the use of video recordings of interviews with suspects which can later be presented in

court, writes Jason Bennetto. Video taping of cases involving serious crimes may become routine under the proposals being examined by a

Home Office working party. The move is aimed at preventing police using violence or intimidation to obtain confessions, such as in the Bridgewater case where three men were released from prison after serving 18 years for a murder they did not commit. Police chiefs believe it will also help counter false al-

politan Police, West Mercia and the West Midlands - and forces in Scotland, have carried out a number of pilot projects using videos. Cameras have also heen fitted in some police stations and prisoner transporter vans in London.

Crown Prosecution Service,

ted a criminal offence during the

Carl Bridgewater case they

would he brought before the courts. Merseyside police are

investigating the case and a re-

All police interviews are tape recorded at the moment, but suspects sometimes claim that officers were silently making

threatening gestures.

David Maclean, a Home Office minister, commenting on the use of video recordings, said: "It's not done routinely ... we've got to look in England at how legations against officers.

Four police forces in England it could be used in court in properties. The police have been

Mr Madean told BBC Radio 4's Today programme. Pilot schemes involving the Crown Prosecution Service and the Lord Chancellor's Department are now expected to go ahead in seven or eight areas. "It could be the case in future

that we want to video record all interviews, just the same as they do a tape recording now," he said. A suspect could object to the video being shown, but the judge would make the final decision.

the idea for the last 18 months,

Nigel Pascoe QC, chairman of the Bar Council's public affairs committee, who has used a video in one trial, welcomed the development as a "safeguard for a

running technical studies into defendant in custody". However, he warned it would be expensive to introduce video taping nationwide. David Phillips, secretary of the Asso-ciation of Chief Police Officer's crime committee and the Chief Constable of Kent, added: "We believe video recording would [give] courts the chance to see not just what was said, but the way in which it was said, or si-lence exercised."

But Jim Nichol, solicitor for the Bridgewater Three, opposed the move, saying it could lead to experienced police of-ficers using suspects' body lan-guage to implicate them. Andreas Whittam Smith,

## Teenager 'first link' in Betts ecstasy chain

terday for the second time ac- the club so Mr Packman then cused of heing involved in supplying an ecstasy pill to Leah Betts.

Miss Betts died at her parents' home in Latchingdon, Essex, while celebrating her 18th hirthday 14 months ago after taking a single eestasy tablet. A jury at Norwich Crown Court was yesterday told that Steven Packman, 19, of Lain-

don, Essex, was the first link in a chain of supply. Mr Packman denies being concerned with the supply of ecstasy to Miss Betts and her

friend, Sarah Cargill.

The jury was told that a previous trial, in December, was abandoned after the jury failed to reach any conclusion.

Andrew Williams, for the prosecution, said that Miss Betts and Miss Cargill wanted ecstasy for Leah's party. He said they had obtained four tablets through a chain of friends.

Outlining the chain of supply, he told the court that: Miss Cargill had asked a friend called Louise Yexley to help obtain the drugs. Miss Yexley had asked her boyfriend, Stephen Smith, 19, to buy the drugs when he visited a nightcluh in Basildon, Essex, called Raquel's, However, Mr Smith had not

offered to ask a dealer and had returned with four ecstasy tablets.

Mr Williams told the court that Mr Smith had already admitted being concerned in the supply of ecstasy to Miss Betts and Miss Cargill and had been given a conditional discharge. Mr Williams told the jury that Packman had confessed his role in the supply chain to a door-man at Raquel's nightcluh -Bernie King.

Their conversation had been taped by the News Of The World wspaper. Mr Williams also said that Mr

Smith - Mr Packman's best friend - had also named Mr Packman as the man who hought the drugs. "He (Mr Packman) alone met the drug dealer who supplied this drug," said Mr Williams. "He (Mr Packman) alone, if he so wishes, is in a position to name that drug dealer."
But Mr Williams stressed to

the jury that Mr Packman was not accused of any "criminal culpahility in Miss Betts death. He said Miss Betts had taken a pure ecstasy tablet and her death appeared to be the result of a "freakish chance". The tri-

al continues.

#### DAILY POEM

**Anagrams are People** 

By John Powell Ward anagrams are people

a lemon rapes a grape every leaf to come a cemetery of love

whom Nelson Mandela won

on∈ man who mends all now o he entered dark Africa

oh dear friend take care the ice-caps all melteth

the place calls the time what is this our life?

that are out of

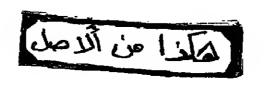
this world

this it for us awhile?

zones all widen, green fails wells faze, lean origins end

This poem comes from John Powell Ward's fourth collection. Genesis (Seren). A former editor of Poetry Wales and lecturer at Swansea University, be has also written critical works on RS<sub>1</sub>Thomas and Wordsworth. Genesis costs £5.95 from Seren at: First Floor, 2 Wyndham Street, Bridgend, Mid-Giamorgan CF31 1EF.







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# HARE BEING BRUTALLY SAVAGED BY TWO DOGS THAT UPSETS PEOPLE. THE BERRONG DOG. THE WRONG DOG.



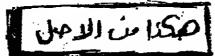




The first time anyone goes to a hare coursing event, which is effectively greyhound racing but with a live hare, they are advised not to identify with the hare. It is seen as merely bait, even when its screams of pain and terror can be clearly heard above the beging of the crowd. The important part of this blood port is the competition between the two dogs, and the betting that accompanies it. Yet perhaps the most shocking aspect of this vicious spectacle is that it is entirely within the law.

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## Crowning moment for cognoscente of Italian Baroque

Arts Correspondent

work of the artist Annibale the Italian family of painters, opens to the public at the National Gallery tomorrow.

The Coronation of the Virgin, one of Carracci's most serene and classical paintings, goes on show in the Sainsbury ing as part of the Discovering the Italian om the collection of Sir istorian and collector who cently announced that 61 of s art works would go to as and galleries in the

paintings and 30 drawing continues until 18 May and includes works by Reni, Poussin, Domenichino, and



show. The Malion collection, egun in the mid-1930s when the works of 17th century unfastrionable, is considered the finest collection of 17th and 18th century Italian paintings formed in Britain



# Starvation fears for dementia patients

Dementia sufferers are being left to starve in NHS hospitals and care homes by staff who do oot understand their condition,

campaigners have warned. The Alzheimer's Disease So-ciety has compiled a dossier of complaints from people who have watched patients waste away because they are unable to feed themselves.

The concerns follow the she had "enjoyed" a pudding.

"As I approached the bedside Hungry in Hospital report compiled by the national hospitals I could clearly see the square of watchdog, the Association of Community Health Councils. and first reported by The

The report, out earlier this month, showed that many paticots were going without food in hospital. Relatives claimed that some people had starved to death.

The ADS is concerned for the welfare of patients with dementia who are awaiting treatment for physical ailments on wards where staff are not used to Alzheimer's Disease.

Harry Cayton, director of the society, said: "They are not being looked after by specialist nurses but by people with no specific training in dealing with

The society is in talks with the Royal College of Physicians to improve training of hospital staff in helping paticots with de-mentia. It would also like small sections of general wards to be reserved for dementia patients and specialist staff...

Mr Cayton said: "Patients are being expected to feed themselves when they are not even aware that they have been given a meal."

The ADS has compiled a dossier of cases from around the country of dementia patients who have been allowed to go without food. It is compiling a report on the scale of the prob-

iem nationally.

Among those who have complained is Ruth Finch, a health professional from Essex, who said her aunt had been left to

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hospital in Chelmsford in November. Ms Finch was warned by a hospital orderly that her aunt was not being fed. She said: "When I asked the nurses I was told variously that she could feed herself, that it wasn't in the

nursing plan for her to be fed and that they were too busy." On one occasion, Ms Finch was told that although her aumt had declined a main course

sponge pudding in one piece on the floor at her feet," she said. "Frequently food was left our of reach, some in cellophane wraps that defeated people or people were left asleep. Trays were collected without notice as to what had been eaten."

Beverley Kite, 59, of Camden, north Loodon, said she had to sit and feed her mother in a north London hospital. Her mother, Ada Wheeler, 89, has dementia but had been admitted to the hospital for a hip replacement.

Ms Kite said that her mother and other patients with dementia had been left without food by auxiliary staff who had no understanding of the condition. She said: "People with dementia will die before they ever complain that they are not being fed. The auxiliary staff are not trained. They will go up to someone with dementia and ask them if they are hungry. When they get no answer they

take the food away." Maureen Sebastinelli, from North Shields, said hospital staff had little understanding of

her husband Victor.
The retired forklift truck driver was admitted to a surgical ward after breaking a thigh bone. His meals were often taken away still wrapped in the cling-film which he could not remove. Mrs Sebastinelli said: The nurses are not p on dementia people. They need to be watched every minute, it is very, very hard."



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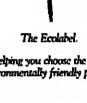
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# Labour pledge on NHS schemes

Chief Political Correspondent

The Labour Party has written to Tory MPs promising that any in-shift in policy from his predecoming administration would honour private finance schemes tacked the private finance for National Health Service initiative as privatisation. hospitals that have been signed before the general election.

Where a contract has oot been signed by the time a future Labour government took office, Chris Smith, the party's health spokesman, has told the MPs: We will be seeking urgeot ways

Mr Smith said any hospitals Labour policy, he had given no at the head of the list would continue to receive priority attention. The letters mark a sharp cessor, Harriet Harman, who at-

It was raised by Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State for Health, in a Commons debate led by Labour to attack the Government over the rise in waiting list figures to a record total of more than a million. Mr Dorrell said that although

explanation of how an incoming Labour government would speed up the provision of private finance for hospitals, which could help to cut the waiting lists. "The letters are a sham," said Mr Dorrell.

He defended the figures for waiting lists, insisting that the oumber waiting for more than a year had been brought down from an average 200,000 to 22,000 by the Government's changes to the NHS, and by the
Patient's Charter which insists

to delay a trip to Hong Kong.

But Mr Dorrell is defending

an assurance by the Government last week that cancer paticots were not waiting for treatment, 42 per cent of cancer patients had to wait more than 30 days for treatment.

The NHS is seen by Labour as one of the key areas where Labour can defeat the Tories ar the election, and all leave was cancelled for last night's vote, forcing Michael Portillo, the Secretary of State for Defence,

sion of family doctor services. He is to publish a draft Bill to encourage patients to take out private insurance for long-term care if they need it in their old age, to avoid having to sell their homes to pay for treatment.

He accused Labour of a "vacuum" over health policy and "empty rhetoric" but Mr Smith used the Opposition debate to warn voters in the Wirral South by-election on Thursday that if a Tory government was elected,

Mr Smith said that in spite of going on the offensive, with a se- the NHS, and a switch to pri-un assurance by the Govern- ries of initiatives for the expan- vate health, a charge which Mi vate health, a charge which Mr

> Accusing ministers of "massaging" hospital waiting list figures ahead of the by-election, he charged Mr Dorrell with "running rather too obviously for the Tory party leadership instead of addressing the real issues and problems affecting the health service".

Opening the debate on the NHS, Mr Smith warned of a general deterioration in the state of the health service".



Meaty issue: John Prescott leaving yesterday's press conference after saying that disposing of BSE waste could take another 13 years

Photograph: David Rose

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# Backlog of carcasses poses health risk, Prescott warns

**Charles Arthur** 

The backlog of cattle carcasses waiting to be incinerated after the BSE crisis will take 13 years to clear because of "government incompetence", the Labour Party claimed vesterday. Just a week after a censure motioo against the Government over its handling of the BSE crisis, John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, reignited the row, alleging that a "BSE map" of Britain showed through lost exports, compentat "oo one is far from a BSE sation paid to farmers and the storage site or rendering plant, or the incinerators and power culling storage and incineration rate of incineration of rendered

burning BSE waste". He also beef carcasses and rendered remains oow awaiting incineration was creating a health problem. We have heard of examples

where carcasses are being piled un outside warehouses waiting to be burnt," he said. "This is public health information and we should all be aware of it."

He also attacked the "beef tax" created by the problem, which has cost Britain £3.5bn cost of administering the

But the claims were dismissed present slow rate. claimed that the backlog of as "deliberate scaremongering" by Douglas Hogg, Minister of Agriculture, who accused Mr cattle slaughtered so far under Prescott of trying to "undermine confidence in British beef". He insisted that the remaining carcasses prescoted "no risk to public health" because the most potentially infectious parts had

been removed at abattoirs and incinerated. The Intervention Board of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food said yesterday that it would be "extremely unlikely" that the

stations being considered for of all cattle over 30 mooths old. waste would continue at its

4 per cent of the 1.27 millioo a culling scheme agreed with the European Unioo have been incincrated. Only one company, ReChem, near Southampton, has a permit to burn such waste, to a total of 2,000 tomes annually. But a spokeswoman for the Intervention Board said that nine other companies were now submitting tenders."There is 168,000 tonnes of ground cattle remains in store, and 62,000 tonnes in cold stores waiting to

#### be rendered," she said. ed yesterday. Portillo is holed up in the bunker

## as Blair finds the right range cy there are people who were Conservative that are now com-

Anthony Bevins Political Editor

The difference between the Conservative and Labour election machines was shown yesterday when Tony Blair spent more than two hours at a Wirral hospital while Michael Portillo, the Secretary of State for Defence, visited a private golf club at nearby Eastham. Health has been identified as

the voters' prime concern in Thursday's Wirral South by-election, and the local media swamped Mr Blair's visit to the Arrowe Park Hospital, just outside the coostituency. Labour was giving them what they wanted.

Meanwhile, over in the Tory camp the candidate, Les Byrom, toured the offices of a cable in every part of this constituen-

60p

accompanied by six party workers and a company photogra-pher. Cahling has oot yet registered as an election issue. Mr Byrom later welcomed

Mr Portillo to his beleaguered campaign and the Secretary of State spent an hour giving interviews to television and radio at Eastham golf club. Mr Blair's visit, which in-

cluded tours of various hospital wards and departments, concluded with a lengthy private hriefing session with hospital managers and staff and repre-At the end of his third visit to

the constituency, the Labour leader said: "I doo't know who Mr Portillo will be meeting in the golf club, but I think you will find

ing over to the Labour Party. I think Mr Portillo will find that as well, and one of the reasons for that is the type of Conser-vatism Mr Portillo represents."

Mr Blair said that the onenatioo conservatism represented by Sir Edward Heath was on the way out and that explained why a lot of people were switching to Labour.
But if yesterday's campaign showed up the difference be-

tweeo Labour and the Tory machines, it also illustrated the difference between a national press obsessed by the arrival of Cherie Booth, and what she was wearing and a regional media that was covering health and other local concerns. Explaining the decision to

give the local media a special, preferential session with Mr Blair, one aide said there was another difference between local and oational media -"people trust the local media".

With just two days to go to polling, today's campaign will be dominated by a visit from Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, who said three weeks ago that the Tories could expect a "kick" from the Wirral South voters. Labour will get a return visit from its deputy leader, John Prescott, and the Liberal Democrat leader, Paddy Ashdown, will spend an hour at a local primary school. Labour will conclude its cam-

paign tomorrow night with an open public meeting - a rare vent in modern electioneering.



## Spiritual moment on the benches

Vestminster is a bad place to find MPs at the moment – they are to be discovered just about anywhere else; 200 Labour MPs have, we are told. been campaigning in the Wirral, along with 50 Torics.

Given that yesterday's keynote health debate was attended by fewer than 100 MPs in total, perhaps it would have been better to make the company to better to move business up to the Denis Thatcher suite in the Village Hotel, Brumborough. There, after prawn cocktails washed down with Mateus Rose, Mr Decibel and Mr Smith could have traded statistics until it was time to go back on the knocker.

But those happy few who remained witnessed a rather moving, spiritual exchange. It came during the monthly five minutes in which the MP who represents the Church Commissioners, Michael Alison (C, Selby), answers questions from members about the Church of England.

The first up was Simon Hughes who - as a Liberal Democrat sitting for the seat of Bermondsey – is a kind of secular bishop, sent to save souls in a savage land. His first three Special Interests listed as Human Rights and Civil Liberties, Youth Affairs and Social Injustice, Mr Hughes reminds me of a youngish curate from a sitcom - always about to be let down by the worldliness of others.

He wished to deprecate the recent remarks of the ex-Archbishop of Canterbury criticising modern services. But the church should seek to "involve everybody", gushed The Rev Hughes, adding with ghastly vicarish matiness, "let's

Grrr! I don't want to be "got in", so that I can sing songs of social injustice alongside Simon Hughes; I don't think it's Parliameot's business how many people go to church (or to synagogue or temple or mosque). Bot Mr Alison did. It was not just "Happy Clappies", who should be welcomed, but "the Militant Tendency, the National Front and others whose views are known to the congregation and in more exalted circles". This was a bit unnerving. I'd understood about High Church, Low Church, traditional and evangelical – but the revelation that Militant were involved came as a shock. What do they argue for at General Synod? Nationalise the top 200 sacrameots? Punitive tithes for fat-cat archbishops?

Newham's Tony Banks tried to help out. He is a disestablishment man, and - perversely - took the side of tradition. What was driving people out of church, he said, were all these here oew-fangled services. "People don't go to church to be felt up by the person oext to them," he said mystifyingly, "they go to have the hand of God laid upon them, not the hand of someone else." I think that something nasty ooce happened to Mr Banks in a church, and he has never quite recovered.

Mr Alison was unsympathetic. Never mind the Happy Clappies, he said, "the honourable geotleman – al-arse – represents the Shouty-Louty tendency!" who – presumably – go about breaking tambourines, belching during contemplation and heckling Simon Hughes.

The tone was raised by none other thao Michael Fabricant, who wished to draw attention to the 801st anniversary of Lichfield Cathedral. "Last night", he told the House happily, "there was a service for Lichfield Girl Goides!" "Bet you were there!" shouted shouty-louty Tony. Mr Banks is almost certainly right; last week Mr Fabricant joined the celebrations of Lichfield Morris Men, dressed in waistcoat and ribbons.

On Sunday night I am sure that enthusiasm won out over discretion yet again, and that Mr F will have managed to squeeze into a fetching little blue outfit, complete with the statutory woggles. Ging-gang-goolie-goolie-wotcha!

## Kussians target **UK** spies in debt

Political Correspondent

Russian spies who are trying to infiltrate the British security services may be playing on agents with financial problems in order to subvert them, a House of Commons committee suggest-

The report says that all three elligence services - MI5, MI6 and GCHQ - have had to with-

draw security clearance from staff and cootractors because they were in debt. The end of the Cold War has meant that while fewer agents are likely to betray their country for ideological reasons but are more likely to do so for money, it adds. The annual report of the all-

party Intelligence and Security Committee says Aldrich Ames, the CIA man who acted as a double agent for the KGB and whose activities led to the deaths of several of his colleagues, underlines the need for vigilance. Aines used much of the \$3m he was paid by the Russians to fund his secood marriage to a "shopaholic" who was found to have 500 pairs of shoes. The committee warns that British ageots must be watched constantly.

Tom King, chairman of the committee and a former Secretary of State for Defence, said there was no reason to believe that a British Aldrich Ames was

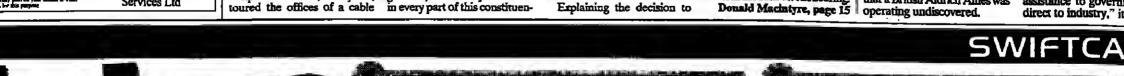
"There is absolutely oo evidence at all that there is any question of a similar traitor working within the British intelligence agencies but the lesson to learn from the tragic and really awful experience in the US ... is that no country can afford to sit back and assume that

everything is all right," he said. Ames, who was tried for his activities in 1994, caused nine colleagues to be executed and a further three imprisoned, and the Commons committee says that the fall-out from the case has oot yet stopped.

its report says that in addition to staff being vetted when they join, their circumstances should be randomly checked throughout their service.

It also warns of the risks of other countries using their intelligence agencies to gain commercial advantage over Britain. In one recent case, the American State Department advised some of its companies not to exhibit at the Paris Air Show because of fears of espionage, and John Major had asked the committee to look into the problem in this country. However, it concluded that Britain's agents were protecting its interests.

The security service works both to counter the real and continuing threat to UK economic interests, and to provide protective security advice and assistance to government and direct to industry," it says.



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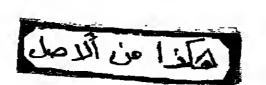
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# Kremlin sees silver lining in deal on Nato expansion

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there are to be descented in the state are to be descented in about the state. We also noted in about the state are to be descented in about the state are to be descented in a state are to be also debute was state and the state are to be a state It could be bluff, or it could be sincere. But, at least in public, Russia is slowly, tantalisingly, edging closer to striking a deal over Nato's plans to expand into Central and Eastern Europe.

The signs have been steadily trickling in Yevgeny Primakov, Russia's Foreign Minister, yesterday left Brussels saying he was cautiously opti-mistic after his second meeting in five weeks with Nato's

As the former Russian spymaster flew to Norway, Nato officials claimed genuine head-way was being made with the is-sue, which has disrupted Moscow's relations with the West, revived a mood of Cold War suspicion and caused a

political outcry in Russia. Their bopes will have been further raised on Sunday, when President Boris Yeltsin said he had agreed to look for a compromise over Nato expansion,

Secretary General, Javier and suggested it could be found solana.

Solana. and suggested it could be found at his summit with President Bill Clinton, in Helsinki, next

> gamesmanship in the air. By appearing willing to do business, the Russian President may hope to deflect blame on to the Americans should Helsinki bear no fruit. By holding out the prospect of a quick agreement, and with it, a publicity triumpb for the White House, he is putting pressure on his

The risk of failure remains, despite a genuine softening in the Nato debate, which was aided by last week's visit to Moscow by the US Secretary of

صكدا من الاعل

State, Madeleine Albright. Both sides have agreed in principle to set up a Russia-Nato consultative council with its own secretarist. But crucial differences remain, particularly over Moscow's demand for a legally binding charter with Nato, to be ratified by Nato member governments, which

Yet, Mr Yeltsin could also do with a publicity coup, after eight months of almost uninterrupted absence from the

Kremlin in which resentment has swelled to a roar of anger over unpaid wages and pensions. If it contained some weighty and face-saving con-cessions, especially on the Con-ventional Forces in Europe treaty, a Nato deal in Helsinki have some appeal.

Patrick Cockburn

of his government.

sions in the cahinet.

answers, "evasive".

Whatever the outcome of the

hoped to benefit, internationally

the police investigation."

dicial posts, exacerbated divi-

In the past few days, he has begun the first perilous steps tobelated return, almost onesixth of his way through his secand term.

This weekend he had recovered some of his bamboozling form when he appeared on television to fulminate against his political foes, warning that they shouldn't attack "too hard, cause I can fight back". Yesterday, the President was

on the nation's screens again, chastising his Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, for failshake up his team. Such the-atrical public scoldings of high officials are a standard tactic in the Yeltsin playbook, but it is a

sign that he is on the mend. So, too, was his decision to meet two of his most powerful allies yesterday, the new chairman of the Constitutional Court, Marat Baglay, and the Patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church, Alexy II.

This burst of presidential activity is part of the warm-up for the ultimate test of his health,

Netanyahu at bay as

graft row worsens

6 March. It will please his advisers but is fraught with risks. His doctors and allies are aware that if he is forced to take to his bed again, the pressure on him to stand down will be hard to resist.

And if Mr Yeltsin goes, it would throw Nato's expansion plans into chaos. Even the most hardline Nato general is likely to think twice before pressing ahead with a policy that could swing Russian voters even further in the direction of anti-



# Kohl seeks coalition on jobs crisis

Bonn - Germany's govern- effort to fight an unemployment ment and opposition pushed off record of 4.7 million which into incharted waters yesterday, threatens to prevent Germany this incharter their emer- from qualifying for the single into incharted waters yesterday, gency tax-reform talks will lead currency. "Pull us out of the crisis!" Bild, Germany's largest daily, appealed in a headling.

The issues are clear. Since the

nims at least for an all-party ing more jobs.

The issues are clear. Since the SpD majority in the upper house of parliament can block any new tax law, Mr Kohl needs many Oskar Lafontaine have any new tax law, Mr Kohl needs botk denied their rare "summit" its support to cut taxes by

would lead to a cabinet rethinf- DM30bn (£11.3hn) and lower fle to include the SPD But it unit labour costs, thus promot for agreement oo laws this year

employment is now so fierce will revert to confrontation to that the SPD cannot afford to stonewall. Voters in next year'a elections would punish them for delaying a solution. But the main opposition party cannot compromise so much that it ends up helping Mr Kohl build claim that he pulled back Ger-

Public alarm over rising un- the worst case, both parties pin the blame for the failure on

Recent polls show Mr Kohl's centre-right coalition trailing an opposition alliance of the SPD and Greens. The Chancellor SPD challenger, Mr Lafontaine or Lower Saxony's state pre mier, Gerhard Schröder.

# Whitewater counsel faces new battle over credibility

Waspington

After a week of controversy bordering on ridicule, the Whitewater special counsel, Kenneth Starty must rebuild the credibility of his investigation, and satisfy the demands of an increasingly impatient public for results in bis 30-month probe of the Clintons and their business dealings in Arkansas

Yesterday Mr Starr was back at work leading his teams of prosecutors in Washington and Little Rock, amid reports that on one vexed Whitewater issue at least, closure may be at hand. Like the FBI, the US Park Police and his predecessor as spe-

Contrary to the unshakeable helief of conservative conspiracy theorists, Mr Starr is satisfied that foul play was not involved nor did the President or his wife take part in a cover-up of the circumstances of the death of a close friend and aide entrusted, among other things, with personal Clinton papers relating to the original White-water land deal.

But this move alone is un-likely to restore the authority of his investigation, after a week in which he first announced he would step down on 1 August to become dean of a new law college at Malibu, California only to reverse himself after bitter criticism from his rightwing supporters that he was

to bring charges. The former **Bush Administration solicitor**general says his investigation is still "moving forward," and he

will stay on as long as required.

But the damage had been done. Despite the disclaimers, both pro- and anti-Clinton fac-tions believe Mr Starr could not possibly bave contemplated quitting if he was poised to take the historic step of indicting a First Lady and perhaps her husband (though most scholars believe that under the Constitution, he could not bring criminal charges against an incumbent president, but would present his evidence to Congress which would determine whether

to start impeachment hearings).

the First Lady or the President loan to his former business timony of McDougall, a convicted felon who has al-

ready twice changed his story. As for Mrs Clinton, it is reckcourt of law would find that the First Lady knowingly took part in a separate bogus land deal a decade ago in Arkansas, and then lied about it to the prosecutors and a federal grand jury. But if the threat posed by one

special prosecutor may be diminishing the Clintons lives could soon be tormented by a new one. After a string of new revelations of apparent White House fundraising abuses involving Asian Americans, even some Democratic legislators at the weekend joined Republicans in urging Janet Reno, the Attorney General, to

# Clair, so now said to bave conducted minibile dictar that the former. White House deputy accorded wince Foster, did had decided he did not had decided he did not have enough evidence against either that the had decided he did not have enough evidence against either to sair impeachment hearings). In fact, his case on the issue even some Democratic let where Mr Clinton is most vulnerable, that as Governor of Republicans in urging J Arkansas in 1986 he helped to organise an illegal \$300,000 appoint a counsel. Empire State killer was broke



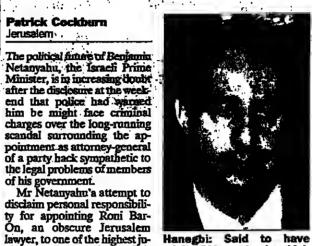
David Usborne New York

The Arab gunman in the Empire State Building attack was distraught over losing his life distraught over losing his life savings and had no ties at Palestinian radical groups. The gunman's daughter, Linda Abu-Samra, said she could not believe her father, an English teacher, would resort to vidence. "The myor of New York, Radolph Ginlian, sought to didence. "The myor of New York, Radolph Ginlian, sought to didence. "The gunman's son-in-law, and the same of florida, where Kamal shot iter the attack, Abu-Kamal shot iter the attack, Abu-Kamal shot in militant groups. Mr Abu in the state.

died in hospital.

fied as 27-year-old Chris Danish rock band. The gumman's daughter, Lin-

himself in the head and later Samra said that Abu-Kamal planned to invest his savings in The dead victim was identi- the United States. However, he called home on Sunday and said Burmeister, a member of a he had financial problems and could not send trition money to



Hanegbi: Said to have misled PM over top legal job

ened to resign over the affair. Avigdor Kahalani, Minister of Mr Netanyaho's lawyer said be should not be blamed, because he was misled by Tzahi Internal Security, said that if the Hanegbi, the Justice Minister, accusations turn out to be true about the acceptability of Mr the government has no right to Bar-On to the Supreme Court. continue". Natan Sharansky, Israeli television said, bow-Trade and Commerce Minister, said: "Should it turn out that just ever, that when police questioned Mr Netanyahu last week 10 per cent of what was revealed about the affair they found his up to now is correct, the government has no future."

Dan Meridor, Finance Minscandal, it has weakened Mr Neister, believes that if the alletanyahn politically when he gations are confirmed, "this is the worst affair in the history of and at home, from signing the Hebron agreement. Nahum the state". Barnea, an Israeli columnist, Barnea, an Israeli columnist, Write: "It is not Jerusalem which is really bothering Ne-tanyahu right now, but rather

the state. The police investigation started on 22 January, when Ayaia Hasson, a reporter for Israeli television, alleged that Aryeh Dehi, leader of the Shas party, which is in the ruling coalition, and who is on trial for corrup-

tion, had orchestrated the candidacy of Mr Bar-On, who held office for one day. The specific accusation was that Mr Deri had threatened to block the Hehron agreement with the Palestinians unless Mr Bar-On got the job and Mr Deri won a pleabargain.
During the month-long police

investigation it has become clear Mr Deri and others close to the government who were on trial or facing indictment were all involved in the appointment of Mr Bar-On. Worse, from Mr Deri's point of view, his own lawyer, Dan Avi-Yitzhak, resigned last week and denounced his former client. This has created the suspicion that it was he who leaked the story to Ms Hasson in the first place,

Mr Netanyahu has fought his way out of tight corners before. But he has yet to come up with a convincing explanation of his determination to replace the previous attorney-general with somebody more malleable and dependent on his goodwill. During the first weeks of the investigation it appeared possible the Prime Minister would be unscathed by the police investigation. In questioning him about the affair, however, police say he repeatedly said: "I

don't know" and "I don't recall." They then cantioned him that he might face criminal charges. Following this disclosure, Nissim Zvilli, secretary-gener-

Netanyahu has hired his own lawyer, Yaacov Weinroth, a top criminal attorney, who repeatedly implied over the weekend. in defence of his client, that the Prime Minister was misled by Mr Hanegbi.

This may be good legal tactics if Mr Netanyahu's objective is to stay out of court, but be could pay a heavy political price for throwing one of his cabinet to the wolves. Visiting King Hussein in Jor-

dan over the weekend, Mr Netanyahu accused his opponents of counting him out too early. He said: "I intend to continue to lead the state of Israel, I heard the (opposition) is getting ready for new elections. I have good advice for you: 'Wait, You have a good four years left in the opposition'."
The Prime Minister's office

believes Mr Netanyahu is the victim of a campaign by the Israch media. It particularly objects to analogies between Mr Netanyahu and President Richard Nixon during Watergate. At the weekend, Channel 2, Israel's commercial television channel, showed All the President's Men, about the scandal, ■ Brussels – Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, condemned Israeli plans to build a settlement at Har Homa, in east Jerusalem, writes Sarah Helm. The European Union viewed the plans as "counter-producal of the Labour party, called for a fresh election, although peace process."

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Deng Xiaoping's cremation: 100,000 line the streets as party ensures smooth transition of power

# China's leaders put unity to fore as last red emperor is given a macabre farewell

and Ted Plafker

"Unity after death", should have read the banners above the body of Deng Xiaoping as he lay wrapped in the red national flag and surrounded by flowers for a last macabre media appearance. For that was the message meant for the Chinese people last night, as state television broadcast the first and last pictures of the late patriarch's body, his grey-faced corpse now a centre-stage prop for those who would inherit his mantle.

Lined up solemnly to the front was President Jiang Zemin, the prime minister Li Peng, and the other five members of the standing committee of the party's polithum the most powerful sub-committee in China. To one side was grouped the grieving Deng clan, including his wife and five children, solbing as they hade farewell to a relative, and perhaps also shedding a tear for their lost status as the

Arranged behind were about a hundred party and government elders, the remnants of the Long March generation such as Yang Shangkun and Bo Yibo, still very much alive as political wheeler-dealers. And all around were the state television cameras and photographers, failing to keep out of each other's way as they recorded for posterity this media show of unity.

The elite of Chinese politics had gathered at the military hospital to pay their last respects



before Mr Deng was cremated. They bowed the traditional three times and then circled the corpse led by Mr Jiang. Mr

Deng's hand-picked successor. In such politically charged environments, politburo standing committee members do not weep. They stare steadfastly at their dead mentor, avniding eye contact with the living. These are the men (for there are few female faces) on whom the future political stability of China country depends, and who will play out their individual political ambitions in the months to come.

For Mr Deng there was just one last indignity. Transferred to a glass-topped coffin, he was then loaded into the hearse - a white and hlue windowless "Coaster" minibus ill-befitting a late emperor. As the funeral convoy made its way along the Avenue of Eternal Peace to the Babaoshan cemetery and crematorium, an estimated 100,000 people lined the route. Many thousands had been bussed in from nearby factories and universities, each wearing identical white paper flowers, but many more appeared to have come of

In contrast to the emotionchoked mourners who were bussed in past the police cordons and then featured on

the crowds lining the streets were less demonstrative. They were also less well-informed about how the morning's events were due to unfold. Indeed, confusion reigned among those gathered outside about when, or even whether, the cortege

would be passing by.
In what is perhaps an apt metaphor for China as a whole at this tender juncture, the curious onlookers seemed only to know that the great man had died, that his demise has occaand that they might or might not, from where they stood, be able to observe it directly.

Clearly, they wanted to. "I want to pay my respects. Deng Xiaoping is the greatest figure in China's modern history, and f just feel I want to be here," said a woman in her thirties in a comment that echoed the sentiments of many.

Absent, however, was any sense that high political stakes are in play. There is among Peking residents a fair diversity of opinions about the prospects for Jiang Zemin's long term survival as China's leader, but few who believe that the system itself might change as a result of his replacement by any of his known contenders who are, after all, cut from essentially the same cloth.

The framework of economic reforms left behind by Deng Xiaoping is going to be followed. Everyone knows this, and it is only a matter of how fast or how slow," said a Peking academic who specialises in Taiwanese

Regardless of whether such certainty is justified, it marks a sharp contrast with China's reaction to the death in early 1976 of Premier Zhou Enlai. For many of the Peking residents old enough to remember it, thoughts turned repeatedly to the day his corpse was transported to the same cemetery.

"I was standing on the Avenue of Eternal Peace for Zhou Enlai also, and the feeling was very different. There was such pressure then to oppose the Gang of Four, who were in control, and there were very few ways to express dissatisfaction," said a man in his seventies, retired as an editor with the staterun Xinhua news agency.

Now there seems to be no kind of struggle like that, and so people are just here to pay their respects.

Some of those too young to remember such times, however, reacted more cynically to the whole affair. Precisely 12 hours after Deng's cremation, a young waitress could not keep from talking back to the most demonstrative of the mourners seen sobbing on the television in her noodle shop near the Peking train station.

"What are you crying about, granny? My, but all the noble people come out when something like this happens!" said the 19-year-old migrant from An-

hui province.

In the private hall of the cemetery, the family bade their final farewells. "Papa is not dead," wailed the Mr Deng's youngest daughter, Deng Rong. Today will be the official memorial service for 10,000 invited officials in the Great Hall of the People. Just next door, in Tiananmen Square, stands the vast mausoleum which houses Chairman Mao's increasingly waxy-looking corpse. The first few years of the post-Deng era may decide just how long it must be before the Great Helmsman can finally be given a dignified



Final act: Deng's widow, Zhuo Lin, kisses her husband's body at yesterday's funeral ceremony watched by daughters Deng Nan, left, and Deng Rong

# nasty is left exposed to resentment

While the emperor lived, his offspring made the most of the opbook deals, or selling artwork to collectors. Those who sought out the patriarch's children must have assumed that a Deng business partner or the purchase of an expensive painting by a Deng daughter might open up other channels of useful communication.

Now that Deng Xiaoping is dead, his five children will have to tread more carefully if they are to hang on to their privileges. Resentment among ordinary Chinese runs strong

munist party leadership. Politically they are also vul-

portunities on offer to China's nerable; China's current lead- companying him in public in orfirst family, whether it was by se- ers are unlikely explicitly to der to translate his heavy curing attractive husiness op-portunities, signing lucrative children in the short term, but will demand that they fall into line behind the current leadership strategy for a smooth transition. After today's memorial service, the Deng family may find it prudent to adopt a considerably lower profile now that their main claim to influence is

> In the closing years of Mr Deng's life, it was his children and his wife, Zhuo Lin, who, if not powers behind the throne. did control who crossed the

worked as his private secretary and "imperial lip-reader", ac-Sichuan accent into standard Chinese and to bellow the com-

ments of others into his less-deaf When she wrote a hagiography of her father, the foreign publishing rights were snapped up by none other than Rupert Murdoch - for a reported \$1m. Property deals in Shenzhen were another sideline.

In some instances, members of the former patriarch's family have found themselves uncomfortably close to scandal, ed. The husband of Deng Rong

against such "princelings", the For most of the Nineties, his is He Ping, who was in an emchildren of China's top comfavourite daughter, Deng Rong, harrassing position last year harrassing position last year when a subsidiary of the China Poly group, where he held a senior position, was linked to a Chinese AK-47 smuggling operation into the United States. One of Deng's sons, Deng Zhifang, stepped down in 1995

from a senior position at a Hong Kong listed subsidiary of the mainland state steel giant, Shougang Corp, after an associate, Zhou Beifang, who was head of another Hong Kong Shougang company, was arrested on corruption charges and subsequently given a sus-pended death sentence. Deng Zhifang also has a number of property development inter-

The eldest son, Deng Pufang,

who has been in a wheelchair since jumping out of a window tion when persecuted by Red Guards, saw his Kang Hua investment company closed in huilding up a small business emthe Eighties on allegations of pire in Hong Kong, heading irregular husiness activities, three quoted subsidiaries of Since then he has gained more respect by devoting his time to Ferrous Metals Industry Corworking for China's disabled.

Deng Lin, the rather jovial artistic eldest daughter, shunned politics and business in favour of painting, and her works have enjoyed considerwere priced at up to £30,000.

and hurdens of her father's economic boom.

Jianchang, found his marital the state China National Nonporation

The most overtly political of Mr Deng's children is Deng Nan, a physicist who is vice-min ister of the Science and Technology Commission. Her ahle popularity, as well as healthy prices. In Hong Kong in 1993, she exhibited a series she was rumoured to have perof large carpet-tapestries which suaded her father to make his southern tour in 1992, the event "Deng Lin bear the benefits which sparked China's recent

# Albright stands firm on human rights

"I said I would tell it like it is, round-the-world trip, the new and I told it like it is," said the US Secretary of State, Madeleine Alhright, of China's human rights record. "I don't want to speculate over whether I was able to narrow the differences or not," she added, saying that "if there was not further progress" the US would hack the annual resolution against China at the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva next month, writes

secretary of state's fast stop in Peking was the most challenging, attempting to set the tone for the next phase of the volatile Sino-US relationship just days after the death of the former patriarch, Deng Xiaoping.

Yesterday, Ms Albright hecame the first senior foreign diplomat since Mr Deng's death to meet President Jiang Zemin, the prime minister, Li

scribed as all in "deep mourn-A US official said Mr Jiang was "quite sombre, appropri-

ately so". However, the oficial added: "I thought he looked quite confident, and quite sure of himself." In a rare indication that the

Chinese president might partly write his own speeches, the official said: "President Jiang talked at length about the lega-cy of Deng Xiaoping, about the memorial service, and the fact

he'd been working on it and how much he'd been thinking about it."

Ms Albright said she had expected that her visit would be cancelled, coming as it did on the day Mr Deng was cremated and on the eve of this morning's memorial gathering. The fact it went ahead was

a very important sign of their desire to pursue the US relationship and the enutinuity within it", she said. Ms Albright was scheduled ship. However, the improved

mary address, and how hard to fly out of China early today so as to be out of the country before the start of the memorial service for Mr Deng, to which no foreign dignitaries have been invited.

> The Secretary of State said she had been received with the greatest kindness and interest", hut there was clearly little time for any substantive progress on the many problems human rights, market access, Taiwan, weapons sales - which beset the hilateral relation-

tone set towards the end of last year has continued.

"I am confident, based on today's meetings, that the vigorous strategic dialogue that is developing between the US and China will continue." said Ms Albright, confirming that the US Vice-President. Al Gnre, will visit Peking next manth.

A summit between Mr Jiang and President Bill Clinton is likely before the end of the year.

# Portillo in Hong Kong rush job

**Stephen Vines** Hong Kong Christopher Bellamy Defence Correspondent

Michael Portillo, the Secretary of State for Defence, will tomorrow be making a whirlwind tour of Hong Kong, lasting less than a day. Government officials in the colony have been left wondering whether this has more to do with the Conservative Party's leadership concerns than the defence of the realm.

Ostensibly, Mr Portillo will be in the colony as part of routine inspection of troop duties. However, he will barely have time to shake hands with the troops up near the Chinese border before being whisked off to see the remnants of the naval presence and the newly arrived Black Watch hattalion who have barely had time to

The suspicion about political motives has been heightened by Mr Portillo's insistence that his for a parliamentary vote yes-



Michael Portillo: Suspicion over motives for his visit

press entourage for the trip shauld consist of political correspondents rather than defence writers who would normally he present on occa-

Sious such as these. He had been scheduled for a three-day stay in the colony but the lack of a Conservative maionity in the House of Commons meant he needed to he present

terday and will not be able much higger order - six patrol leave London until this after-

From Hong Kong, he will fly to Brunei, where Britain has 950 troops including 600 Gurkhas, all paid for by the Sultan.

The visit is also expected to result in the signature of a deal to buy up to three corvettes fast but heavily armed small warships of about 1,500 tons each, designed for policing the country's Exclusive Economic Zone and protecting natural resources as well as possible use against the growing threat of

The deal for the ships, their equipment and related training could be worth up to £250m. Although relatively small in defence terms, the timing of the deal is highly significant in the run-up to the general election and also to a major defence exhibition, called Idex, in Abu Dhahi next month.

could be in the market for a

The United Arab Emirates

boats and six corvettes. Ministry of Defence sources said Mr Portilln was due to meet

the Sultan during the visit on Thursday. Also on the agenda is a joint military exercise to take place in April called Setia Kawan II, involving 2,500 British personnel, and the Defence Procurement Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Sultan and John Major

visit to Hong Kong serves to un-derline a feeling of British neglect in the colony. Both Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, and John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, have truncated recent visits because of parliamentary pressures at

Mr Rifkind's visit last week has stirred some controversy because of suggestions that he used his very short time in the colony to engage in Conservative Party fundraising.

However, this has been categorically denied by Wilma Croxen, the vice-chairman of the Conservatives Abroad organisation in Hong Kong who organised a cocktail reception for Mr Rifkind at Hong Kong's luxury Mandarin Hotel.

"It was a fund-losing event," she said regretfully, not enough money was raised from the £24 entrance fee to cover the hire of the room and the drinks. Mr Rifkind stayed for less than half The brevity of Mr Portillo's an hour and the subject of party funds was not raised,

It is a far cry from the days when Hong Kong tycoons were among the Conservative Party's main henefactors and John Major was able to walk away from a select dinner with the colony's tycoons after pledges of millions of pounds had been

Those same tycoons now want nothing to do with any-thing British; their benevolence is strictly reserved for the incoming Chinese regime.

## Pop concerts that must dance to a different tune

Stephen Vines

Is it safe for children to attend pop concerts featuring "sexy dancing and sexy costumes"? Definitely not, says a Hong Kong urban councillor, Jennifer Chow, who is proposing a classification system, similar to that used for films, so that parents can be warned about

what their children might see. Ms Chow has discovered that concerts used to consist of "one person singing" but "now they use many new selling points such as sexy dancing and sexy

costumes The chief culprit appears to be the Hong Kong mega-star Lestie Cheung who has just completed a highly successful series of concerts at which he

was seen clutching his crotch. This form of behaviour is not entirely unknown at pop concerts; anyone who has at-

would be startled to learn that hunal ruled that a statue of a Mr Cheung was being unduly naked man by the world provocative. However Ms Chow says she

has conducted a survey of 360 parents and found that 90 per cent were worried about what might be seen at a pop concert. Ms Chow is a member of the

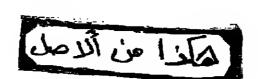
august body which recently dccided that Elton John could only perform at an open-air pop concert to mark the handover of Hong Kong if the audience wore headphones so as to reduce the noise level.

Hong Kong seems to have a problem with the performing arts. Films and television programmes depicting violence acts in graphic detail have routinely been declared as suitable family entertainment whereas naked parts of the human body seem to give great offence.

A couple of years ago the

tended a Madonna concert colony's Obscene Articles Trirenowned sculptress Dame Elisabeth Frink was a Class II piece of work meaning it fell mto the category of being either violent, deprayed or repulsive. The statue was allowed to remain on display after the penis was covered with a cardboard

> Like the Elton John concert which was cancelled, the statue was later withdrawn. It remains to be seen whether Leslie Cheung will also have to be withdrawn from alongside a host of other pop stars. Ms Chow is not without her critics. Ada Wong. another urban councillor, says that Hong Kong youth face problems somewhat more profound than exposure to pop concerts. She said her main concert was the freedom to perform rather than the performance.



# internationa

# Ragged rebels who must face professionals

ansition of power

as last arewell

New Guinea turned to as security advisers after tests for assistance from lia for help against rebels rned down, according to s in the Australian press. Sydney Morning Herald

s today that Papua New from Canberra, inelectronic intelligence point rebel radio broadand body armour. But requests were turned Australia believes there to be a politically negosolution to the crisis in Jeast 10,000 people, most-

ans, have died in the nineparatist civil war in the of Bougainville, accord-nofficial figures compiled NG government sources eport for the UN Comon Human Rights. rebel Bougamville Revry Army (BRA) deindependence from anua New Guinea after a ong-running dispute among enous landowners and the dustralian operators of what was then the world's largest cop-per mine, Conzinc Riotinto alia. CRA, one of Ausbiggest mining compa-titself 49 per cent owned in's RTZ. The people of ainville complained that the land had been stolen from them, and that the mine caused deadly pollution.

The rebels are largely armed with home-made rifles, salvaged machine-guns from crashed Second World War aircraft, and even bows and arrows. But despite their pathetic armaments, they forced the mine to close in 1989 and the gov-ernment army retreated from the island nine months after that. The PNG army has been accused by natives and human rights activists of atrocities ranging from the burning of villages

to rape and torture.

**Jewish leader says** 

Rifkind row blown up

Iguatz Bubis, leader of Germany's Jewish community, said British outrage over a German newspaper reference to the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, as a Jew was overdone. The Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung's mention of

Mr Rifkind's background may have sounded worse to

English-speakers than German-speakers. "In ... German it depends on the context. And in the context of the FAZ article, that was clearly not the case." The journalist was trying to point to an irony about Mr Rifkind quoting Luther, added Mr Bubis. "It was perhaps an unfortunate

choice of words, but the reaction is completely overdone."

A French woman was giveo a one-year suspended seotence and told to pay damages for harassing the designer Paco Rabanne by accusing him of satanic powers. Rabanne, who has written on the supernatural, said Josianne Pasquier went to his boutique, trying to dissuade clieots from entering "Satan's den".

Reuter — Patis

Sex-for-visas row rocks Taipei

Allegations by the former head of Washington's de facto

embassy in Taipei that staff extorted ser and money from visa applicants swept Taiwan. James Wood said staff took bribes, \$5m (£3.1m) in visa fees was missing and an

investigator forced at least one applicant to trade sex for a

Russian peace-keepers killed

Georgia condemned a blast in the breakaway Abkhazia

region which killed three Russian peace-keepers. The head of the Russian mission blamed Georgian

"terrorists". The incideot occurred when an armoured

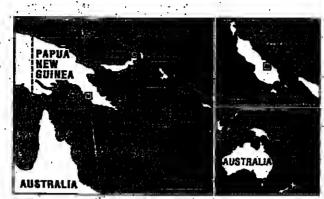
Pyramid scam propped party

One of Albania's collapsed pyramid schemes paid \$50,000 (£31,250) to the governing Democratic Party before elections in May, according to the state controller's office. The party, accused of widespread vote-rigging, denied profiting from the schemes, which have cost thousands of depositors that springs and led to profit of the schemes.

depositors their savings and led to unrest and calls for the

A French woman was given a one-year suspended

**Demon for fashion** 



had approved a A\$36m (£22m) velopment in the South Pacifcovert operation to end the reic," Australian Prime Minister bellion. Sources in Papua New John Howard told parliament Guinea have confirmed that over the past two weeks two Foreign Minister Alexander Russian aircraft have been active between Port Moresby's Jackson Airport and the north-

ern coastal town of Wewak. The mercenaries are under-stood to be training at Moem Barracks near Wewak, from where the offensive on the BRA would be launched. The operation could also involve the freeing of five soldiers held captive for six months.

PNG's Prime Minister, Sir Julius Chan, said yesterday that media reports that his government planned to use merceoaries were inaccurate and sensationalist. But he confirmed that his government had hired Sandlines International to help train government soldiers. "Ye there is training going on at the moment, training for our underequipped, under-trained and under-resourced forces," he said in a statement,

Papua New Guinea Defence Force Chief-of-Staff Colonel Jack Tuat said the latest training was no different to that involving Australia, New Zealand and the United States. "We are occasionally bringing in people to train our guys on the use of new and specific equipment." Mr That told Reuters.

But the reports have sparked a crisis in relations between Australia and PNG. "We would re-Australian newspapers have gard the use of mercenaries as reported that the government an extremely unwelcome de-



Downer said he had urged PNG last week not to use mercenaries, adding such a move

"I will use any vehicle which is reasonable that I possibly can to try to stop this operation go-

Julius Chan and to other ministers ... was that if there was a resumption of any military activity on Bougainville, then it would be regarded by Aus-

tralia as absolutely disastrous." Poverty-stricken Papua New Guinea's willingness to commit A\$27m in funds to a secret mil-

questions among donor countries and institutions. However, the Prime Minister said Australia itary adventure is bound to raise

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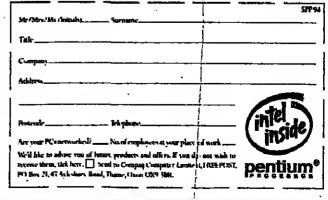


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क्षा और देंग 4 . . . . **#** (7.7)

# **Professor** D. A. Heath

D. A. Heath was the distinguished George Holt Professor of Pathology at Liverpool University for 25 years, from 1968 to 1993. During this time he stimulated research into many aspects of heart and lung disease, stretching from the Andes of South America to the intricacies of heart-lung transplantation.

Donald Heath was horn in Henley-on-Thames in 1928 and educated at Henley Grammar School He entered medical school at Sheffield University immediately after the Second World War. Although this was a period of austerity, he always spoke of his time at Sheffield with great affection. Even in those early days his at times acerbic academic character was



firmly moulded. When a fellow undergraduate, discussing the whale meat which regularly appeared on the university menu, commented "This fish stinks". his only rejoinder was 'Any fool knows a whale is a mammal."

Following graduation, Heath's chosen career was in cardiology and he was fortunate to be appointed in 1953 to the recently created Regional Cardiovascular Centre at the City General Hospital, now the Northern Hospital, in Sheffield, There, as a young man, he was faced with the responsibility of caring for er like some kind of medieval patients who were often very ill. Most were hlue, breathless and suffering from high blood pressure within their lungs. Some were infants and children with congenital heart disease while others were middle-aged meo who had been miners or steel-

One of the most popular figures

He found his true metier and

great popularity in cornedy char-

acter roles. His entrance was al-

ways greeted by a warm round

of applause, which would later

it would have been easy for him

Segal on to the stock comedy

characters that were part of the

repertoire. Instead, he chose to

immerse himself in the charac-

ter he was playing and would

transform himself into the hen-

pecked husband, the put-upon

Segal had received his train-

ing in classical Yiddish theatre

and could acquit himself ad-

mirahly in many of the classic

roles of the repertoire. Partic-

ular highlights of his work were

Hershele, the Scribe in Gordin's

God, Man and Devil, the Rab-

hi in Anski's The Dybbuck and

what the press described as "a

towering performance" in the Sholem Aleiche Centenary pro-

duction of Hard to be a Jew. He

won great acclaim when playing

the title role in the Yiddish pro-

duction of The Merchant of

beadle of the local synagogue, or the busybody matchmaker.

Playing in weekly repertory,

to impose the persona of David an amateur group as a teenag-

erupt into gales of laughter.

been taught that diseases of the heart affect the lungs and vice versa; and that the channel through which this takes place is the pulmonary circulation. He was puzzled as to what were the changes in the pulmonary circulation which so profoundly influenced the clinical picture, treatment and prognosis of the natients. At the time, the medical profession as a whole was equally ignorant,

A Leverhulme Research Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians allowed Heath the time to begin study of the pulmonary circulation. This was followed by a temporary lectureship in pathology which took him, in 1956, to the Department of Pathology at Birm-

ingham University.

During his first year here he was awarded a Rockefeller Travelling Fellowship from the Medical Research Council, which enabled him to spend a year under the stimulating tuition of Dr Jesse Edwards at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, in the United States. The clinic was a leading international centre in the emerging field of heart surgery. It proved to he a decisive year. Heath never found his way back to cardiology. He stayed at Birmingham for 12 years, the last four as Reader in Pathology.

In 1968, he was appointed to the George Holt Chair of Pathology at Liverpool. He was to prove a staunch champion of his department and of the university. In his early days there he devoted much time and energy to the successful transfer of the pathology department from the university campus to the new Royal Liverpool Hospital, whilst accommodating the increasing requirements of faculty, university and NHS administration. In teaching, his fondness for prowling around the lecture theatre using the board pointlance soon taught students there

was no safety in the back row. It is, however, in academic research that Heath made his international contribution to the field of pathology. He had an unshakeable belief in the fundamental importance of academic nuary 1997.

**David Segal** 

in English Yiddish theatre for helped by his mastery of the art Pavilion Theatre company, un-

nearly 50 years was the splen- of make-up. This was extraor- der the aegis of the actress/man-

did character actor David Segal. dinary, as he was colour-hlind ager Madam Fanny Waxman.

and could only choose the cor-

rect colour by checking the

numbers on his make-up sticks.

na. Poland, into a family with no

theatrical hackground, but his

love of the Yiddish language

and the theatre led him to join

er and he became a professional

actor in his early twenties. He

toured Poland with the leading

Yiddish actors of the day and

from 1928 until 1933 appeared

in Romania along with his wife.

They both arrived in London

the actress Meta Segal.

David Segal was born in Vil-

workers. As a student Heath had endeavour. When he came to Liverpool he was the author of some 100 papers and several books: The Human Pulmonary Circulation (1962), written with Professor Peter Harris, became a standard text. When Heath retired in 1993 this number had risen to over 300 papers and sevcral more books. His interests continued to expand to include work on the carotid body and particularly the study of the biology of high altitude. He first visited the Peruvian Andes in 1965, with Peter Harris, his friend and colleague, as part of their study of the pulmonary circulation. These visits continued for the next 24 years, to both the Andes and the Himalayas.

Heath was unquestionably a dedicated academician. His last paper. "Travellers on a Hidden River", was accepted for publication on 13 January 1997. In November 1996 the book High Altitude Medicine and Pathologv, on which he and I collaborated, received an award in the BMA Book Competition for 1996. Both gave Heath consid-crable pleasure, despite his declining health. His zest for fieldwork never abated, and during the summer of 1996 he was the driving force behind work undertaken in Bolivia.

An insight into Donald Heath's enthusiasms may be gained from the opening sentences of a contribution he made in 1993 to the medical iournal Thorax:

The well-ordered life of a patholo-gist can be disrupted if he falls into the hands of adventurous clinicians. I was never meant by build or inclination to cavort in mountains at high altitude but my long association with Peter Harris determined otherwise.

It proved also to be a mutually stimulating and fruitful clinicopathological relationship which brought great distinction to both of them and their respective academic institutions.

David Williams

Donald Albert Heath, pathologist born Henley-on-Thames, Ox-fordshire 4 May 1928; George Holt Professor of Pathology, Liv-erpool University 1968-93; died Southport, Lancashire 10 Feb-

mances of Yiddish theatre at the

Pavilion before it closed later

that year. With Fanny Wax-

man's company, the Segais

toured the provinces and later

appeared in Belgium, alongside

such luminaries as Jacoh Ben

member of the Yiddish Na-

tional Theatre, in the East End

of London, under the artistic di-

rectioo of Meier Tzelniker.

with whom he later successful-

ly toured South Africa.

David Segal later became a

Ami and Berta Gersten.

Segal's great versatility was in 1933 as members of the

## **Harry Essex**

Shortly before memorably cooling herself by standing over a subway grating in Billy Wilder's nameless "Girl Upstairs" (Marilyn Monroe) told her escort (Tom Ewell) how sorry she felt for the leading character in the

film they had just seen: the hideous, slimy Creature from the Black Lagoon, Harry Essex, one of the screenwriters who brought this monstrous but somehow appealing half-man, half-fish to the screen, was also responsible for another 1950s science fiction classic: "

Born in New York City, Essex wanted to be a writer from early boyhood. After graduating from St Iohn's University in 1936, he did welfare work by day, while writing for the theatre by night. His play Some-thing for Nothing was produced on Broadway in 1937. He went to Hollywood in the early 1940s, and was starting to do well in films when wartime service intervened.

After demohilisation from the US Army Signal Corps, he and Martin Rackin wrote Desperate (1947), a taut thriller directed by Anthony Mann. In Essex's screenplay for Frightened City (1950), smallpox was unknowingly carried around New York by a smuggler (Evelyn Keyes). Unfortunately, while

the film was still in production, 20th Century-Fox released Panic in the Streets, in which pneu-The Seven Year Itch (1955), the monic plague was unknowingly carried around New Orleans by a murderer (Jack Palance);

consequently, Frightened City was shelved for nearly a year. Essex co-wrote Universal's The Fat Man (1951), which starred J. Scott Smart as the obese detective Brad Runyon, a role he had played on radio since 1946. The series was developed especially for radio by Dashiell Hammett, creator of The Thin Man, but as he had just heen jailed for refusing to co-operate with the House of Representatives' Committee on

Un-American Activities, Hammett's name was conspicuous by its absence on the screen credits of The Fat Man. Another sign of those paranoid times was that Essex and Earl Felton received screenplay credit on The Las Vegas Story (1952), but not their cowriter Paul Jarrico, who had been hlacklisted. Essex directed four films.

beginning with Mickey Spillane's I, the Jury (1953), which he also wrote. That same year. he adapted Ray Bradhury's story "The Meteor" as It Came from Outer Space, in which, unusually, the bug-eyed aliens weren't bent on world conquest, but were only on earth

long enough to repair their spaceship. With the same production team. Essex co-wrote The Creature from the Black La-goon the following year. He wrote such westerns as

Wyoming Mail (1950), Raw Edge (1956), The Lonely Man (1957), and John Wayne's The Sons of Karie Elder (1965), in which four straight-shootin' brothers avenged the family honour. Because Essex shared script credit with Talbot Jennings, Allan Weiss, and William H. Wright, one critic wondered if each Elder sibling had his own writer.

In the 1950s he wrote television scripts for Phileo TV Playhouse and Playhouse 90, and in the 1960s for The Untouchables. He also wrote many plays, novels and short stories.

In 1954, when his I, the Jury, It Came from Outer Space, Dev-il's Canyon, The Creature from the Black Lagoon and Southwest Passage - all 3-dimensional films - were on release, a Hoilywood trade paper quipped. "Harry Esser has so many 3-D pictures out, you have to wear special glasses to see him".

Dick Vosburgh

Harry J. Essex, screenwriter, director, playwright: born New York 29 November 1910; (one son, one daughter); died Los Angeles 6 February 1997.

# John Irwin

The work of a devotee, said an Indian sage, brings glory to knowledge and makes him the cosmic yogi.

John Irwin may have known such mottoes during his re-searches in Indian arts and during his 19-year tenure as Keeper of the Indian Section at the Victoria and Albert Museum, but he brought to his findings the pragmetism of his English temperament: he related all abstruce ideas to concrete facts. Apart from his principal texts on Indian arts, he was able to communicate his knowledge in eloquent writing and the spoken word to both

learned and lay audiences. Born in Madras in 1917, the son of a coffee planter, he was educated from early childhood in England, at Canford School, in Dorset. He then chose to be a journalist, working for various publications including the New Statesman under the radical

editor Kingsley Martin. On the declaration of war in 1939, he joined, as sublieutenant, the Gordon Highlanders, where he was promoted to the rank of captain. He was demobilised in 1942 when he injured a leg while training a company in motorcycle riding; this made him limp slightly in

Intelligent, aware of the various facets of Indian life, and with liberal humanist predilections, he was chosen in 1942 to be ADC to the Governor of Bengal, Sir Richard Casey. Irwin had the advantage of sharing with Mrs Casey, an unusually cultured colonial lady. his own findings about creative

activities in Bengal.
He frequently visited the studio of the folk painter Iamini Roy and, in collaboration with the young progressive poet Bishnu Dey, he wrote the first book on this legendary artist.

Jamini Roy (1944). This brought him into contact with leading figures in Indian art history: Dr Stella Kramrisch, the doyenne of Indian art history, Professor Nihar Ranjan Ray, of Calcutta University, and Professor Shahid Surawardy. Irwin was deeply impressed by the 2nd-century BC sculptures of Barbut and some Asokan relics which he saw in the Calcutta

He toured the alleged birthplace of Buddha in Lumini, beow Nepal, where he admired the inscribed Asokan pillars, put up by the Maharaja Asoka, a Buddhist convert. Subsequent



visits to Sarnath, in Uttaf Pradesh, to see the domed shrine of the Stupa of the Healdha, put up on the site where Gautama delivered his first setmon, made such a great inpression upon Irwin that he later undertook research in stupa architecture. The vision of the classic Sarnath image of Buddha was another image which made him turn, again and again, to the mastery of sculptural form achieved in the first six centuries AD in India.

Like E.B. Havell and Ananda Coomaraswamy, who had penetrated into the deeper foundations of Indian craft culture, Irwin became absorbed, especially through the craft of Bengali weavers, in the exquisite colours of Indian textiles. By fore he returned to Britain in 1945, Irwin had taken down many research notes which were to be worked upon during leisure hours after his arducus duties as Assistant Keeper from 1946 in the Indian Section of the Victoria and Albert Museum These researches later resulted in two exquisite books. Kashmi Shawis (1955) and Origins of Chintz (1970).

As a pioneer in the area of textiles research, Irwin was in vited by the organisers of th Calico Museum in Ahmac abad, Gautam and Gira Sural hai, to help to catalogue the finest collection of Indian to tiles. This connection brough him to India several times ar he edited the books indu Painted and Printed Fabri-(1971) and Indian Embroiden (1973). These are precion records of the unexcelle weavers' and dyers' crafts

India. Apart from Irwin's duties the V&A, in 1947-48 he o ganised the Royal Academ Winter Exhibition of the Ar of India and Pakistan" ar wrote the introduction to th catalogue, which greatly e tended the appreciation of h

dian heritage. Irwin, unlike many schola based in the library or museur devoted most of his tim after retirement to lecturin in Britain, India and the Uni ed States, holding question and-answer sessions, to ray audiences.

The affability of John I win's temperament and his ca pacity for communicatin warmth built up many frienc ships between him and Indian in the new cultural life frienc ships could be realised between Indian and Englishman no achieved in the earlier period o E.M. Forster and A Passage u

Mulk Raj Ananc

John Conran Irwin, museun curator: born Madras 5 Augus 1917; Private Secretary to the Governor of Bengal 1942-45. Assistant Keeper, Indian Section, Victoria and Albert Museum 1945-59, Keeper 1959-78 (with responsibility for Oriental Department 1970-78); marriea 1947 Helen Scott (nee Fleicher, three sons); died 23 January

## Lois Marshall

Despite being partially paral-The outhreak of the Second World War found Segal on the sea voyage back to England, ysed as the result of polio, the Canadian soprano Lois Marwhere he and his wife decided shall had a successful career. spanning more than 25 years, as to make their permaneot home. He joined the company at the concert singer. She sang in the Grand Palais, where he worked United States, Western Europe and Russia, as well as in ber nauntil the theatre closed in the early Sixties, and theo toured tive Canada, under the baton of with the company, which went conductors such as Arturo on to operate on a mobile ha-Toscanini and Sir Thomas sis. He continued to work un-Beecham, with both of whom she made recordings. A fine musician, she had a sweet-toned, Bernard Mendelovitch lyric soprano voice of unusual flexibility. Although she ap-David Segal, actor: born Vilna, Poland 22 October 1901; married peared a few times in opera, the Meta Sloviesna (died 1982); died concert hall remained her chief

sphere of activity.

Marshall was born in Toronto, and began her vocal studies there at an early age, first with Weldon Kilhurn, and then with Emmy Heim. She first came to. public notice in 1949, when she sang in Bach's St Motthew Passion with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Sir Ernest MacMillan. In 1952 she went to New York, where she won the Naumburg Award. This led to a concert in the Town Hall, as a result of which she was engaged by Toscanini for his 1953 NBC broadcast of Beethoven's Missa Solemnis, and for the subse-

quent recording of the work.

interpretation of Beethoven's masterpiece was not to everybody's taste, this recording of the Missa Solemnis was an enormous success, and established Lois Marshall as a wellknown figure in the musical

After a long tour of the United States, in 1956 Marshall came to England, making her London debut in a concert with the Royal Philharmonic conducted by Thomas Beecham. She also made a complete recording of Mozart's Die Entführing auf dem Serail with Beecham, in which she sang

Although the Italian maestro's Konstanze. This should have been an ideal role for the soprano, who had all the power and the flexibility of voice required for Konstanze's music, in particular the aria "Martero aller Arten", but her performance, though very well sung, is curiously undramatic. On leaving England, Marshall gave concerts in Amsterdam, Brussels and Hamburg. In 1957 she sang at the Edinburgh Festival, and took part in a performance of Handel's Messiah in Duhlin.

Marshall's operatic performances included the Queen of Night in Die Zauberflöte, Donna Anna in Don Giovanni and

the title role of Massenet' Thèrèse in Toronto; Mimi in L. Bohème and Tosca in Bostor and Ellen Orford in a CBt Television production of Brit ten's Peter Grimes. She gav popular duet recitals with Mar. reen Forrester, the Canadia contraito, and towards the en of her singing career she herse took on mezzo and contraft parts. From 1976 she taugh voice in the Faculty of Music: the University of Toronto.

Elizabeth Forbe Lois Catherine Marshall, singe. born Toronto 29 January 192died Toronto 20 February 199.

#### DEATHS

Venice in 1946.

HOLLINGS: The Rev Michael Richard, MC MBE MA, on 21 Feb-Richard, MC MBE MA, on 21 February 1997, peacefully, after a long illness. Puneral Muss on Friday 28 February, at Westminster Cathedral, at Ham: Principal Celebrant Cardinal G.B. Hume OSB. Vigil Mass on Thursday 27 February, at St Mary of the Angels, Bayswater, at 6.30pm. RIP. No flowers.

No flowers.

MARSHALL: Josephine (née Charlton), of Barguillean, Argyfl, and Hoog Kong, and formerly of Chaldon, Surrey, on 22 February 1997, at the tender age of 34, in hospital in Oban, peacefully and with great serenity, alter a three-month illness, borne with enormous conrage and fortitude. Most dearty beloved wife of Anthony Robin, daughter of Darwell and the late Jennifer Charlton, granddaughter of Betty Macdonald and sister of Martin, Anne and Nicholas, step-Martin, Anne and Nicholas, step-daughter of Angela Charlton; and most loving and devoted Mummy to Everest and Charles, Functal at St John's Cathedral, Oban, on 1 March at Ipm, followed by burial at Tayouit.

Anniversaries Births: Dame Myra Hess, pianist, 1890; Zeppo (Herbert) Marx comedian and actor, 1901; Anthony Burgess, writer, 1917. Deaths: Si Christopher Wren, architect, 1723; Tennessee Williams, playwright, 1983. Ou this day: Queen Elizabeth t was excommunicated by Pope Pius V. 1570. Today is the Feast Day of St Caesarius of Nazinnzen, St Calixto Caravario, St Ethelbert of Kent, St

Gerland, St Louis Versiglia, St Tara-

#### Births. Marriages & Deaths

Segal: the art of make-up

Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Memorial Fund, c/o D. & A. Munn, Oban (telephone 01631 562562), to whom any enquiries may be addressed.

WRIGHT: Austin (sculptor), aged 85 years, died peacefully on 22 February at Mendowfields Community Unit. York. Private Cremation on 26 Feb-ruary. Memorial Service to be held at All Saints' Church, The Green, Upper Poppleton, York, on Wednesday 12 March at 2.30pm. Donations in lieu of flowers may be made either to York University Young Musicians Fund or the Yorkshire Sculpture Park. For Cazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS, please telephone 0171-293 2011 or fax to 0171-293 2010.

sius. St Victoriaus of Corinth and hi Companions and St Walburga.

#### Dinners

Foreign and Commonwealth Office Sir Nicholas Bonsor Bt MP, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, hosted a dinner yesterday evening at the House of mmons, London SW1, in honour of Mr Ljubomir Frekovski, Foreign Minister of Macedonia.

#### Birthdays

til his 80th year.

London 6 February 1997.

Miss Elkie Brooks, singer, 52; Mr Tom Courtenay, scior, 60: Lord Crickhowell, former chairman, National Rivers Authority, 63; Sir Antony Duff, former Deputy Secre-tary, Cabinet Office, 77; Lord Gill, a Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland, 55; Sir Alexander Gor-don, architect, 80: Mr George Harrson, musician, 54; Mr Tony Lloyd MP, 47: Dr Harvey McGregor QC, for-mer Warden, New College, Oxford, 71; Mr Frederic Mullally, novelist, 77; Dr Lewis Moonie MP, 50; Mr Robert Neame, brewer, 63; Maj-Gen Sir Laurence New, former Lieutenant-Governor of the Isle of Man, 65; Sir Roger Parker, a former Lord Justice of Appeal, 74; Mr George Paul, chairman, Norwich Union Insurance, 57; Sir David Puttnam, film producer, 56; Lt. Col John Stephenson, former Secretary, MCC, 66; Pro-fessor Sir Stewart Sutherland, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Edinburgh University, 56; Mr Anthony Verity, former Master, Dulwich College, 58; Sir Michael Wheeler-Booth, Clerk of the Parliaments, 63; Marshall of the RAF Sir Keith Williamson, former Chief of the Air Staff, 69.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

Changing of the Guard The Uneschald Cavairy Mounted Regiment pa the Queen's Life Guard at Horne Course, 11,500

#### Prosecution of sado-masochists necessary in a democracy LAW REPORT

Kingdom; European Court of Human Rights: 19 February 1997

The prosecution of members of a group of sado-masochistic homosexuals for offences of assault and wounding, despite the fact that in each case the "victims" had consented to the deliberate infliction of pain, did not consitute an unjustifiable interference with their right to respect for their private lives, contrary to article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, since such interference was "necessary in a democratic society" for "the protection of health".

man Rights unanimously held that there had been no violation of article 8 of the Convention in the cases of Colin Luskey, Roland Jaggard and

bers of a group of homosexu-

al men who took part in

sado-masochistic activities, in-

The European Court of Hu-Anthony Brown. The applicants were mem-

branding. These activities were consensual and took place in private between men of full age. The infliction of pain was subject to certain rules, including the use of a codeword to call a halt to any activity, and no permanent injury or infection was caused. The group's members made

videos of these events for private use, and some of the tapes fell into the hands of the police. The applicants were charged with various offences including causing hodily harm and wounding contrary to sections 47 and 20 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861.

After the judge rejected their argument that their consent to the assaults provided them with a defence to the charges, they pleaded guilty and were sentenced to between one and three years' imprisonment. The Court of Appeal ([1992] QB volving maltreatment of the 491) upheld the convictions 25 February 1997

The House of Lords ([1994] 1 AC 212) by a majority also dismissed their appeals, taking the view that a victim's consent was no defence to a charge under the 1861 Act and that it would not be in the public interest to create an exception for sadomasochistic activity.

that their convictions constituted a violation of rights guaranteed by article 8 of the Convention, which provides: 1. Everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence.

The applicants contended

2. There shall be no interference by a public authority with the exercise of this right except such as is in accordance with the law and is necessary in a democratic society in the intersect of national accurate making and intersects of national accurate making accurate making accurate making and intersects of national accurate making accurate ests of national security, public safe-ty or the economic well-being of the country, for the prevention of disor-der or crime, for the protection of beath or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

The European Court of Human genitals, ritualistic beating and but reduced their seotences. Rights said it was common cants' activities involved a sig-

ground that the criminal proceedings against the applicants constituted an "interference by a public authority" with their right to respect for private life, that the interference was "in accordance with the law" and that it pursued a legitimate aim, namely that of "protection of health or morals". The only issue was whether the inter-

mocratic society". The state was unquestionably entitled to regulate the infliction of physical harm through the criminal law. The determination of the tolerable level of harm where the victim consented was primarily a matter for the state's authorities.

ference was "necessary in a de-

The court was not persuaded that the applicants' behaviour belonged exclusively to the sphere of their private morality and so fell outside the scope of the state's intervention. It was evident that the appli-

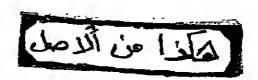
nificant degree of injury and wounding. Furthermore, state authorities were entitled to consider not only the actual harm but also the potential for more serious injury inherent in the activities.

There was no evidence to support the allegation that the authorities were biased against homosexuals. The majority of the House of Lords had based their decision on the extreme nature of the practices.

The reasons given by the na-tional authorities to justify the interference were relevant and sufficient. Nor, given the degree of organisation involved, the limited number of charges finally included in the prosecution case, and the reduced sentences imposed on appeal, could the interference be

regarded as disproportionate. The national authorities were entitled to consider the interference "necessary in a democratic society" for the protection of health and there had been no violation of the Convention.

Paul Magrath, Barrister



# the leader page

# Health? Labour will let sleeping dogs lie

urry, under the covers. The Blairs were out visiting the sick any shroud-waving. It was remarkable Bians were out visions people of Merseyside yesterday, inaugurating a season during which hospital patients up and down the land face sudden conscription as extras in party political hospital drama. But if the anecdotes from the Wirral South campaign, together with polling evidence, hold water, patients with welcome their Labour visitors with more enthusiasm than Tories (Liberal Democrats being above such things as invading hospitals). Health is Labour's issue.

ANTARY PROT. THE INDEPEND

John Irwin

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Nothing government ministers can. do or say, however sincerely, seems to dislodge Labour's hold on health - not even recollections of the Winter of Discontent, or the fact that of the 49 years' existence of the NHS, the Tories have presided over 35. Under the Tories as much as under Labour, health spending has risen continuously, despite Mrs Thatcher and all she might have wished. But the Budget of November 1996 marked a change. The Tories have committed themselves to a real reduction in health spending that is to begin (officially) in 1998 but (practically) could be felt on the wards and in the surgeries by this autumn. In January Labour formally signed up to the plan, at least until April 1998. Perhaps it is no wonder health has been - to use

Tony Blair's phrase - a "sleeping issue". By that he could mean three things. The first is that the phoney election

last week how new waiting-list statistics were, though politically embarrassing for the Conservatives, passed by with-out much loud Labour comment. Labour could flag up health deficiencies at any point it chose but - see below -- it may well choose not to.

When he spoke at the weekend Labour shadow Chris Smith fired a shot across the bows of all those NHS trust chairs who have been appointed on the whim of Conservative secretaries of state. He is entirely within his rights, and would have been even if be had not promised (rather vaguely) to advance the principle of merit by advertising such positions in the future. There is no need to be squeamish. The archipelago of appointed government, which includes those trust positions, is not suddenly going to sink out of sight after the election. Labour ministers will have posts to fill, and if they did not occasionally glance at the party affili-ations of their appointees, well, they would be saints.

But if Mr Smith thinks this is relevant to health care or spending he needs to think again. It is, in fact, almost as irrelevant as his grand promise to find £100m worth of transferable funds by delayering NHS bureaucracy. Come the election, we are going to see a mighty exercise in "badge engineering" as, for example, nurse- of its positive effects. Labour pro-



ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON EM 5DL TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000 / 0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 2435 / 0171-345 2485

managers are miraculously reclassified as nurse-practitioners without a single extra patient getting treatment. Mr Blair may mean that health is a sleeping issue in the sense that neither. Mr Smith nor his predecessor Harriet Harman have come up with any compelling new formula for effective health management. The Thatcher-Clarke reforms - GP fundholding, the quasimarket - are neither pernicious nor notably efficacious. GP fundholding has, in a limited number of places, improved health care for patients;

elsewhere there is, as yet, no evidence

poses tinkering - a bit less market here, a bit more dirigisme there. Tinkering with NHS administration is what health secretaries do as a proof of their existence; provided it is not too ambitious it is probably relatively harmless.

It does not substitute for fresh Labour ideas on health care. (It is one as pertinent in private sector systems such as the American as it is here.) Health costs are constantly pushed up by expensive new therapies, giving rise to questions about who deserves what treatment: are there any distributive principles on which patients, professionals and politicians can agree?

a sleeping issue in that he has no wish, this side of the election, to tell home truths about spending. Labour has enough astute academics inside its tent; he certainly knows the score. Unless - starting at once - there is a huge break with the 3 per cent per year upwards trend in real-terms spending that has run fairly consistently for decades, Labour is set to preside over a growing gap between health demands and budgeted cash. That gap will, within 18 months, amount to some £5bn, enough to create quite a bit of political flak from doctors, nurses and patients, let alone all those local figures Chris Smith has indicated he wants to appoint to NHS trusts. (That is three pence on income tax, for those souls still living in the era before the Iron Shadow Chancellor.)

The question is not whether that long-run health spending trend should be broken - it probably ought to be, insofar as it is based on professional judgements shielded from external scrutiny. The fact is, it cannot be halted within the timetable to which Labour has acceded. In the longer term things look brighter; the financial consequences of demographic change for the NHS are not so dramatic after all. Labour's problem with health is short run. Health will stop "sleeping" as soon as the election is over and dawn breaks over those hospital beds. The Blair gov-

Mr Blair certainly means the NHS is ernment could switch money into health, but that would mean deeper spending cuts elsewhere. Or else it means presiding over some kind of revolution in public health provision, smashing a spending consensus which even Mrs Thatcher ended up endorsing. To vote on health this spring looks like having to choose between competing claims for who is most likely to succeed in squaring circles.

#### How to stop spies walking

E spionage is still a serious business. It is hard, however, to be entirely pofaced about the annual shoe cupboard inspection for our spies which Tom King's oversight committee seemed to be recommending yesterday. Money, it said, is what turns agents these days, and for some - such as the CIA traitor Aldrich Ames - the money is needed to buy shoes. But the Government needs to think about money for intelligence staff. GCHQ, its own communications headquarters, is having difficulty recruiting specialists because its salaries are too low - and there are no unions to push pay up since they were expelled in the 1980s because they were somehow subversive. It seems their absence may be a lot more dangerous to national security.

#### • LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

#### **Parliament** must rule on birth ethics

Sir. Heather Lawrence asks "Can it really be suggested that the rights of a foctus are greater than those of a child with a life threatening but curable medical complaint? (Letters, 21 February). Talking of rights" confuses the issue of whether the mother of a foetus which is about to be born and which is capable of living an independent existence owes a duty (whether to the foetns or society) which is proper justification for allowing doctors to perform a Caesarean operation without her consent, as in the Ms S case:
Whether or not such a duty is

recognised is a matter for the courts but whether or not it should exist is a matter for Parhament Undoubtedly very serious ethical issues are involved and judges should not be placed in the position of having to resolve them. Nine years ago Lord Justice Balcombe said: "It is intolerable to place a judge in the position of having to make such a decision without any guidance as to the principles upon which his decision should based. If the law is to be extended ... so as to impose control over the mother of. an unborn child, then, under our system of parliamentary democracy, it is for Parliament to decide whether such control can be imposed and if so, under what limitations or conditions." JOHN MITCHELL Family Law Chambers,

Sir: Was Rosalind Miles really serious when she stated that "even after four, six or eight children a mother does not have the experience of a junior houseman in his first week on an 'obs and gynae' ward"? ("The mother of all

London EC4

battlefields", 20 February.)
I was a junior house officer in obstetrics and gynaecology for six months and I have rarely felt so embarrassed and uncomfortable as when a mother struggling in a labour in which I was supposedly assisting asked, "How many children do you have, doctor?". I may have known the dose of pain relief if she were to require it: I could only try to imagine what she was experiencing.

A good obstetrician or GP will always respect and listen to the woman's experience. Rosalind Miles' concern that we should be careful not to "rubbish the knowledge bank of those who deliver babies all day every day" is misplaced. She and others should be careful not to rubbish the instinctual and irreplaceable knowledge bank of mothers. Dr LESLEY MORRISON, MRCGP, DRCOG London N19

Sir: As you report (leading article, 19 February), the foetus has no legal rights until born, so that an intervention intended to benefit the foetus is difficult to support legally against the mother's

At 36 weeks' gestation, the foetus in this case would probably not have needed any medical intervention once delivered, but if left inside a woman suffering fulminant pre-eclampsia might well have died. You compared this with parents refusing treatment for their child, when a court order to allow the treatment against the parents' wishes could be granted. It is difficult to understand the reasons for the special legal position of the Merton council, I wish to correct

foetus. Why should one patient fully capable of independent life be legally different from another? Neither can voice their opinion and we must assume that both would want to live, taking advantage of medical intervention, as most

rational adults do. Much of our law revolves around the principle that no individual's action should harm another. Just because one individual is temporally receiving nutrients and oxygen inside another should not alter this, as long as it does not endanger the mother's life.
JONATHAN ROUND St George's Hospital Medicul School London SW17

Sir. Ms S had over 30 weeks in which to make a decision about her, and her unborn child's, future. Sad as it seems to some of us, she could have decided to terminate the pregnancy. However, she chose not to do so.

She should not then be able to decide et a much later date to endanger the baby's life. Mothers (and I include pregnant women in that category) have responsibilities towards their children and in this sort of case it is right and proper that someone stands up for a child whose mother is unable or unwilling to fulfil her responsibilities. ANNE YOUNG

Sir: Your report and leading article concerning the judicial review proceedings involving Ms S raise mportant issues. However, on behalf of the

approved social worker Louize Collins, who is employed by

Strathclyde

some points. It is not correct that the section order made by the social worker was because of Ms S's refusal to accept treatment for pre-eclampsia. Louize Collins made the order under the Mental Health Act because, after lengthy discussion, she judged that Ms S was suffering from a mental disorder which needed further assessment.

Your leading article then states: If S turns out to have been too seriously ill to give informed consent for medical treatment, then the actions of the courts. doctors and social workers will have been fair enough." The social worker played no part in the decision to carry out the Caesarean. Her involvement ended once the section order for further assessment had been

Finally, the leader states that refusing treatment that would save your or your baby's life seems crazy and not the behaviour of a normal mother. You add: "But this evidence is not enough to section a pregnant woman under the Mental

Health Act." You are, of course, correct, and our social worker was entirely

aware of this. Her decision was reached on better evidence than this and I would suggest it is better that we wait for the ontcome of the case rather than prejudge the PETER WALTERS

Director of Housing and Social London Borough of Merton Morden, Surrey

#### Quality TV in the balance

Sir: Hamish McRae advances a possible, rather than probable future for the TV industry ("Tune in to the last of the dinosaurs", 19 February). In advancing the "magazine rack" model of the relationship between viewers and programme-makers, he is missing

There is no doubt that technological advances will reduce production costs in some areas, but quality TV programming will still cost vastly more than the production costs of a magazine. There will, therefore, continue to be significant parriers to entry into this market that far ontstrip those

For decades, the public has been used to getting very-high-quality programmes very cheaply. The "progress" that McRae envisages will result in this diet being replaced by cheaply made, lowquality content.

The real issue however, is the proven public demand for quality programming – for the diversity and phiralism only provided by public service broadcasting. Do we want existing public service broadcasters to be eliminated by the multi-channel process? Or are we to insist that the states of Europe continue to provide the framework that protects broadcasters who invest in quality

programming?

We need continuing investment in original content. Should we

allow new channels to simply suck in imports? Or should we address the huge and growing deficit between the European Union and the United States that is killing our jobs and threatening the very basis

of our future prosperity? Finally, let us not forget our culture and social cohesion. Should the public have the right to see major national sporting events on free-to-air TV? Should they have the right to know that the emergency phone number is 999, and not 911 as some London

schoolchildren now believe? In adopting my report on Public Service Broadcasting in September 1996, the European Parliament not only demanded continuing support for public service broadcasting, it called upon the EU to enshrine such an obligation in the European treaties.

CAROLE TONGUE MEP Socialist Group Co-ordinator on Ilford, Essex

#### **Martin Luther** the anti-Semite

Sir: I find it odd that the Foreign Secretary, with his Jewish background, would choose to quote Martin Luther, who by today's standards was an anti-Semite "From Shylock to the Scot Rifkind", 22 February).

I was baptised and confirmed in the Lutheran faith and have long been aware that Luther's Christian passion was offset by intemperate

# Sir: Diane Coyle ("Wipe the slate clean for the world's poorest countries", 20 February) is right to

UK is failing

poor countries

encourage the Chancellor's efforts towards more generous debt relief to help the poorest nations "stand on their own feet", although - as Oxfam, Christian Aid and others have said for years - it was the cost of our loans that helped to topple them in the first place. But she seems less worried by the

UK's fall in the OECD aid league table down to sixth lowest as a share of gross domestic product below even the Netherlands if measured in quantity.

Scandinavians are much more aware of international affairs and the needs of poor countries than we are. Isn't it time that we paid more attention to our own development education and awareness, ir schools and colleges as well as in Parliament? The Earl of SANDWICH House of Lords

Sir: Sarah Helm's article on the Danes and immigration ("Immigrant song plays on Danish minds", 18 February) was incomplete, in that it failed to cover an important factor in the anxieties which Danes have about the immigration issue.

Denmark is one of a tiny number of nations which regularly meets the UN quota of 0.7 per cent of gross domestic product in foreign aid to the Third World. If economic circumstances were more favourable in those poorer countries from which immigrants uproot themselves to live in Europe, perhaps they would choose to stay at home and build up

their own countries. It is frustrating to be a country of five million people playing its part in world development when the larger and wealthier developed countries of Europe, and the United States, do not. PETER NIELSEN

remarks about Jews and others. He

used words like a jackhammer, and

t's no wonder that the eventual

bull of excommunication against

him began: "Arise, 0 Lord, and

Judge thy cause. A wild boar has invaded thy vineyard." Roland E Bainton, a Luther

biographer, wrote that Luther, in describing his translation of the

endeavoured to make Moses so

German that no one would suspect

he was a Jew." Late in his life Luther was even more abusive, according to

Bainton, suggesting at one point that

all Jews be deported to Palestine and

that synagogues be burnt.
Among the most famous remarks attributed to Luther is that

quoted by Malcolm Rifkind -

otherwise" - which he allegedly

written record of Luther ever

Lane etiquette

Sir. I recently spent a lot of time

driving through France, Belgium, Holland and Germany on business

Our European counterparts have a

good sense of safety and etiquette.

Having overtaken a vehicle, they

Why is it that an incredible

country see it as their God-given

motorway when the inside "slow

right to sit in the middle lane of a

number of car drivers in this

onll into the nearside lane.

lane is completely clear?

PG RUSSELL-SMITH

saying this at the hearing. RONALD ODGERS

Carleton, North Yorkshire

spoke when hauled before the Diet of Worms in April, 1521. Here I

Stand is also the title of Bainton's

book, but he admitted there was no

Here I stand, I cannot do

Bible into German, said: "I

#### Leave Scots out of Bridgewater

Worcester

Sir. Rather than "British Justice" being in the dock in the Bridgewater case ("Bridgewater three to go free", 21 February) it is the English judicial system which must stand trial, for Scotland has an entirely different and separate

legal system. Under Scots law, such a niscarriage of justice could not have taken place, as convictions cannot be based on confessions alone – a practice that has since been incorporated within the English system. Dr WINIFRED EWING MEP President, Scottish National Party Edinburgh

#### Safer bronzes

Sir: After six years working in Nigeria, visiting Benin Museum on many occasions has led me to believe that the Benin bronzes are in the best and safest place in the British Museum ("The looting of Benin", 22 February).

Does Bernie Grant really believe he would still be able to see the magnificent relics of Africa's noble past if they had been left in Benin? If they were returned, they would probably never be seen or heard of

CHRISTINE KELLY Marlborough, Wilishire



Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number: Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk).

E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

# So who cares if the sky is falling?

Very few in the politically hamstrung world of science, despite last week's discovery of a celestial catastrophe 65 million years ago, says Oliver Morton

t happened 65 million years ago, and it could happen again. Something pretty big and moving extremely fast hit the earth very hard indeed. Waves to dwarf skyscrapers crisscrossed the oceans and swamped the land. An atmosphere that had caught fire the impact, get media attention rained acid. Tectonic spasms ran up the spines of the continents. Billions of tonnes of rock and mud were thrown science. into space, and as they reentered the atmosphere, their heat set off fires around the world. The skies glowed dull red, then darkened to midnight black as an all but impenetrable pall of dust and smoke settled into the stratosphere. There was not another dawn for years.
The idea that an asteroid

impact 65 million years ago killed off the dinosaurs and roughly three out of four other lodged in the scientific mind and the public imagination. The evidence for the impact is overwhelming. The huge crater it left has heen discerned beneath thick sediments in Mexico, the mark of its tidal waves can be seen in the middle of America and its distinctive dehris and ash has been

death of the dinosaurs doesn't keep resurfacing because there is a hot debate or a lively controversy; it does so because it's just such a cracking story. New wrinkles to the tale, such as last week's announcement of evidence for centuries of nearsterility in the oceans following simply because astronomy. dinosaurs and mayhem are the ideal ingredients for popular

But our fascination isn't quite that simple. There's something more to it: the worrying implication, raised half jokingly by the Trevor Mac-Donalds and Sue MacGregors when the science correspondent has done his bit, that it could happen again. This catastrophe was not a one-off. There have been many asteroid impacts in the history of the earth; left unchecked, there will be many more.

lions of people, and you could be one of them. The risk of your dying in such an event is around oge in 30,000, which, though small, is far from insignificant. It's certainly far greater than the chances of your winning the lottery. Like the destruction of the dinosaurs, this risk has

course: the Earth faces disaster in a scene from the NBC mini-series 'Asteroids' which



mentaries and magazine covers. We all know of it, and we could, scientific opinion assures us, easily and cheaply do somehow science is used and what

science means. The truth of the matter is straightforward. The solar system is not just a neatly con-centric set of planets. There are lots of smaller lumps of ice and stone and iron whirling around the sun, too. They hit the earth slipped into the popular imag- all the time, and they come in found all over the world. The ination, lubricated by docu- a range of sizes, the big ones

proportionately rarer than the small. The vast majority are just pretty shooting stars - far too tiny to worry about. But watch thing about it. But we don't. It's these meteors for long enough a mistake that, while unlikely to and you will see some bigger vears and you can expect to see one that outdoes a major nuclear war for nastiness, laying waste a continent, blacking out the sun for a year or more. blighting the world's crops.

If the risk of such an impact

is 500,000 to one in a given year. then over a 70-year span, the cumulative risk to any individual of living through or dying in such an event is about one in 7,000. If such an impact leaves about 25 per cent of the earth's population dead, most of them through starvation, that gives any person a risk of about one in 30,000 during the course of an average lifetime. Some estimates make the risk smaller, and others make it larger, but that is a good average. It means that the huge unpleasantness of impacts offisets their great infrequency enough to make them roughly as dangerous as air travel, which entails a risk of about one in 20,000.

In the case of air travel, this is a level of risk people feel

quite strongly about. On 13 February, President Clinton set a goal of reducing the risk of dying in an air crash by 80 per cent. Nasa, whose first A stands for aeronauties, and which thus pie, will be spending about \$100m a year on the project. Most people thought this investment quite wise, but a scientist called David Morrison raised an inquiring eyebrow.

orrison, who enjoys the wonderful title "direc-Lior of space" at Nasa's Ames Research Center in California, chaired a committee which produced a report in 1992 for the US Congress on the asteroid risk. Its advice was simple. There are probably a couple of thousand asteroids of the once-every-half-a-millionyears, climatic-catastrophe type in earth-crossing orbits. Only a couple of hundred have been identified. Mount a thorough survey to find the rest of them, extrapolate their orbits for a few centuries in a computer, and see if one of them ever comes to occupy the same point in time

and space as the earth. If none of them is going to,

is indeed on a collision course, that's not too bad, either. Once the risk moves from the statistical to the actual, things can be done about it, especially as the survey would typically give its advance. A nuclear explosion off to one side of the incoming rock could nudge it into an orbit that missed the earth. The technology to fly spacecraft to asterolds exists, as do the bombs. Putting them together into a successful mission over a period of years would be a tricky problem, but far less tricky than, say,

waging the Gulf War. The Spaceguard survey that Morrison and his committee suggested as a way of finding almost all the asteroids was not a huge affair. It required six specially designed telescopes of modest size operating for three decades and a data system to handle what they saw. Its costs were estimated at about \$10m a year - a tenth of the price-tag for the air-safety programmes proposed two weeks ago and haif a percent of Nasa's budget for space science next year.

But Nasa's big bucks, like those of its equivalents elsewhere, are fiercely fought over.

eficiaries ask for. And no-one is asking for asteroid surveys except the people already doing them, who were well represented on Morrison's commitastronomy is not on the objects nearest to the earth hut on those furthest away: vast black holes at equally vast distances, infant galaxies half as old as time and the fading embers of the Big Bang itself. There is, admittedly, a very small space mission heading off to a nearby asteroid at the moment, but that probably owes more to pressure

was built, than to a widespread scientific constituency. When the Spaceguard report was released. Morrison pointed out to the press that there were about as many people involved in full-time searches for dangerous asteroids as there were employed in a typical McDonalds. Since then, one new asteroid surveillance system has been started in the US, largely thanks to the interest of the military, some of whom see protection against asteroids as a

brought to bear by the senior

senator for Maryland, where it

technology, or both Other American searches, though have closed down, as has the Australian programme, the only search that covered the southern skies. According to Duncan Steel, who used to work on the Australian scale. there are now only about half a dozen people employed to track earth-crossing asteroids.

In short, nothing much is being done about the end of the world because it is a minority interest among scientists and no-one else feels particularly affected. For all that, asteroidare an otherworldly risk They nicely highlight the worldiness of the relationship between sci ence and policy. A theoretical danger can only be built into a policy-inducing risk with the help of a group of people who care about it, a constituency with a particular stake in the problem. Science simply docn't marter much in policy debates unless there are interest groups to make use of it, lobbies with more clout than a burger-bar's worth of

Then there's the problem of science going back on itself. People used to fear the skies, worry about Jove's thunderbolt and tremble at the sight of comets. Then the scientists took it on themselves to set the peasants right. The heavens were revealed as wellordered clockwork, the history of the earth and life as one of slow gradual change rather than catastrophic fits and starts. By the middle of the 19th century. French astronomer Francois Arago was able to speak with pride of the fact that science had stopped people from worrying about comets, and that, as long as scaremongering journalists were assiduously slapped down, the sorry age of celestial superstition was gone for good. Science made the world seem sensible and its catastrophic demise silly. When science then comes back and says that the end of the world is, after all, a real possibility, it is not surprising that people laugh.

Sometimes, though, it's hard

not to think that there is a deeper reason for "impact denial". Perhaps people do not want to see themselves consort of way. The geologists who for years resisted the impact explanation for the dinosaurs' death simply didn't want usteroids to play as big a role in the history of the earth as, say, the wanderings of one of its own tectonic plates. Tough - they do. Humans and the earth they live on are linked to the universe in all sorts of strange, indirect. unsettling ways. Worse yet. humanity now has the power to change these connections. We can empty seas and denude vast forests. We can warm an entire planet, and now, given just a little warning, we can push aside flying mountains. It's genuinely frightening to contemplate such power, especially when you realise how poorly decisions about using it are made or not made. Better to deny the risk of asteroid impact than to accept the fact the humans can redirect the stars in their courses, it's a delusion reasonable mission, or an a dangerous one, in this case that's good. And if one of them They are spent on what the excuse to try out neat weapons but you can understand it.



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# Fantasy holidays with Ivanhoe & Co

or many years tourist authorities have had a touching belief that people will willingly spend their holidays in certain places for no other reason than that famous writers lived there. And the extraordinary thing is that it seems to be true. Americans do flock to Shakespeare's Stratford, British people flock to Wordsworth's Lakeland and Hardy's Wessex. I have met people who did go to John Fowles's Lyme Regis and James Herriot country and Dennis Potter's Forest of Dean and

Dylan Thomas's Laugharne. I have done it myself, if only by accident. I once had to do some research on the . Keighley and Worth Valley Railway for a book on steam trains. This line at one point passes Haworth, the little old Yorkshire town where the little old Bronte sisters lived, and I trudged up Haworth main street to the parsonage where the blessed sisters lived and saw the pub where brother Branwell got drunk The fact that I have never in my life rend anything by the Brontes from start to finish did not deter me.

I do not suppose I was the only one. The only Bronte book I saw being read that day was in the hands of a Japanese student. But that's not the point. We don't worry much about our painters or composers - we certainly don't often plan our holidays round them - but we do have an instinctive reverence for our writers and their country - du Maurier's West Country, Jane Austen's Bath, Dexter's Morse's Oxford, even Betjeman's suburbia - and are prepared to make a pilgrimage there.

Or we were. Not any more, Not if the Radio Times "Holiday 97 Week 2" supplement is a true sign of the times. This little booklet has been hanging round since it made its initial hid for freedom by escaping from its mother magazine. and I thought for a while, whenever I glanced at it, that I must have kept it to help plan a holiday. Not so. Rereading the cover I now

realise I kept it to pinpoint a new holiday trend. Well, read it for yourself and see what you think. Holiday 97. Take the High Road to the home of Hamish



Miles Kington

Macheth, Ivanhoe, and Doctor Finlay ... Take to the high seas with the Archers ... Plus how to track down the TV locations of Ballykissangel, Cadfael, Rebecca, Wildfell Hall ...

Do you spot what is different? That's right. The author has vanished. No mention of Scott or du Maurier, or whoever created Dr Finlay. Instead, you are invited to go to Scotland to visit the locations of Dr Finlay and Ivanhoe and Hamish Macbeth. Not where the authors lived. Not even where they set the books. But

where the books were filmed. Did I say this is a new trend? In fact it's been going on for years. Where I live on the Wilshire/Somerset border is where they shot The Titfield Thunderbolt 30 years ago, and there's a pub up at nearby Dunkerton which has renamed itself "The Tittleld Thunderbolt" and people still come to nose around for the actual places used for filming. (At least, I assume they do. They can't all be opportunist househurgians on a day out from Bristol, can they? Some of the more disreputablelooking ones must be railway film fans, surely ...)

And what made the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway famous and profitable in the first place was not its position in Bronteland but its selection as the location for the film of The Railway Children

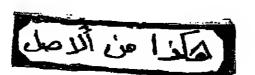
Yet these were all straws in the wind compared to the present flood of pilgrimagesto-the-location. Nobody ever wrote a book called The Shooting of the Titfield Thunderbolt along the lines of The Making of Pride and Prejudice. Nobody organised

trips to the stately homes where they shot Kind Hearts and Coronets. Yet now supplements are falling out of the Radio Tunes urging us in this post-Austen era to go to Scotland, because it is the home of Hamish Macbeth (not Shakespeare's Macheth,

notice) and of Ivanhoe. Do you notice something else odd there? Ivanhoe is not a Scottish story. It was all about Normans and Saxons. Not a Scot in the lot of them. So in what sense is Scotland the home of Ivanhoe? Well. in the sense that author Sir Walter Scott lived, went bankrupt and died there, and you can still see his house. But that's not what the Radio Times is on about. The Radio Times doesn't want you to go to Abbotsford or Princes Street. It wants you to go where Ivanhoe was shot in Scotland, using Scottish clan extras: to places like Craigmillar Castle, Well, I've been to Craigmillar Castle. and let me tell you ...

No more space today, alas This sentence will be completed tomorrow; plus full details on how to visit the place where this column was

のない。



# Many hands have been tilting the balance of justice

iscarringes of justice are not simply the malign work of the police. If the problem were confined to police lies, police the police continued to police lies, police controller and police controller. brutality and police corruption and the rest of the system of justice worked well, then it is doubtful whether any of the defendants in the Bridgewater case would have been convicted of murder or, if they had been, whether they would have stayed in prison for long. The same can be said of the other notorious miscarriages of justice in recent times; the Guildford Four, the Birmingham Six and the Stefan Kiszko case.

Let me name the other parts of the system. There are the courts themselves, in particular counsel for the prosecution. Prosecutors are subject to a pressure similar to that experienced by the police in high-profile cases. While the police sometimes feel compelled to make an arrest, any arrest, and put convincing evidence in front of court even if it has to be "improved", so prosecuting counsel likewise persuade themselves that they must obtain e conviction at all costs. While prosecutors do not doctor the evidence, they do something which has precisely the same effect.

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They withhold items from the defence team which would tend to undermine their case. it is called by the polite term "non-disclosure" and has been a feature of virtually all miscarriages. In the Bridgewater case the material that the defence oever saw is said to

include details of many interviews with the police made by the author of what we now know was a false confession. Nor were unidentified fingerprints on Carl Bridgewater's bicycle disclosed. When it is suggested to prosecuting counsel in such cases that their so-called nondisclosure is quite as reprehensible as policy forgery, they invariably say that they faithfully followed court procedures. If they did, I say that the effect was to pervert such rules. Indeed, were it possible to review and to compare the sense of fairness of the criminal Bar as a whole, and the police as a whole, I would oot expect to find any difference.

Then there is the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), which rarely brings prosecutions against the police involved in miscarriages. No against justice within the British system. At the charges have been brought following the overturning of the Birmingham Six convictions, nor in relations to the Kiszko case. If you ask the CPS about this, yoo will be told piously that it was believed that the evidence was unlikely to secure a conviction, which is a perfect excuse since nobody else sees the files. CPS inaction or timidity is explained by a misguided desire to protect the system by hiding its short-



Whittam Smith judge; it is as dreadful a

The biases against impartiality within the British system need to be understood -they extend all the way to

the top:

Almost as bad as this blindness was the way in which Paul Foot, the journalist who cam-paigned ceaselessly for the over-turning of the conviction, Ann Whelan, mother of one of the prisoners, and Jim Nichol, her lawyer, were made to feel by the Appeal Court that they had in some way been at fault in daring to find witnesses and get evidence re-examined. It was implied that they had wrongly interfered with the sacred course of justice. The appeal was turned down. Mr Foot wants the judges to resign in shame. I would rather see the three judges come back into their court, where should be assembled the wroogly con-victed meo and their families,

the Bridgewater trial had been "fundamentally flawed". It can hardly be said that a judge who presides over a fundamentally

flawed proceedings has done a good job. Even less can the

three senior judges who heard an appeal in 1988-89 be exon-

erated. Much new evidence was

produced pointing to the inno-

cence of the convicted men. However, to disbelieve police witnesses has until recently been

prospect as he or she can imag-ine, since it puts in doubt not only the case in hand but also

low and solemnly apologise.

The Home Office and the Home Secretary of the day, too, are part of the system. At this time the Government has two reforms under way that beggar belief. In the

and, wearing their red robes and

their 18th-century wigs, bow

first, Parliament will be asked to approve rules which limit the access to unused material by defence counsel in criminal cases unless it can be shown to be "relevant". How can defence counsel always know in advance what may be relevant or not? And in the second, a new code of practice would mean that evidence from police investigations is kept for only between one and three years. That rule would have meant that the Bridgewater miscarriage would never have been detected, as the evidence is nearly 20 years old. This is the work of a Home Secretary, Michael Howard, who believes that the existing system is not putting enough people behind bars and keeping them there. What oeed to be understood are the biases

level of the police, it is the pressure sometimes felt to doctor evidence. Prosecuting counsel can be subject to a macho will to win. The CPS dislikes prosecuting the very same police forces with which it works in daily partnership. The necessary aloofness of judges brings with it a crippling complacency.

Such distortions will ever be present, since

they arise from the nature of the tasks being undertaken. It is the duty of the Home Secin Every miscarriage of justice, the judges internselves also bear some responsibility. The information to have also bear some responsibility. The information to have a subject of this work information to have a subject of the work informat

# The left that's left in New Labour

#### by Donald Macintyre

omorrow, Gordoo Brown will set an inflation target at least as tough as the the Government's own projection of 2.5 per cent. own projection of 25 per cent.
Although his speech will also
iay out some important reforms
of the Bank of England and the
Treasury, once again this will be
essentially Iron Shadow Chancellor Brown. We've had fiscally
anstere Gordon Brown, pledged to maintain for two years the awesomely difficult limits on public spending laid down by Kenneth Clarke. Now it's the turn of monetarily ultra-prudent Gordoo Brown pledging Labour to a counterinflation record at least as good as the Tories' oow, and significantly better than they man-

aged in the late Eighties. While Brown will oo doubt rightly emphasise that it's the poor who suffer most when governments lose their grip on inflation, this is a speech to reassure the City as much as the electors. And there is no point in pretending that all this won't make some in the Labour Party just a mite uneasy. OK, we're pledged to constitutional reform; which has the great advantage to an incoming Labour government of oot costing very moch. But otherwise, just how are we going to be differ-ent from the Tories? Isn't it, they will ask once again, all a bit, well, bleak?

Which is why the arrival of two readable little books of unashamed New Labour propaganda ought to cheer up those in the party who from time to time suffer maer doubts about Tony Blan's own unshakeable convictioo that a Labour government, especially if it can secure two terms, will be a good deal more radical than they fear. The first, Why Vote Labour by the MP Tony Wright, is one of a three-part series from Penguin, by a thinker in each of the three main parties, and brought out for the elecspecific oo policy, is What Labour Can Do by Richard Layard which, as his fellow economist Gavyn Davies pointed out yesterday in The icy; some of it isn't. But it ranges from humane welfare truy cannot hope to create a doobt, in what will emerge in the difference between the two main parties is that there is 1979, will deliver more than he every reason to expect the sav-



The difference between the two parties is that Labour would plough savings back into the public sector

reform that rewards the working poor, through an extension of family credit, lower bottom rate taxes and a minimum wage of £3.25; to an education system that pulls up the lamentable standards of the lowest-achieving schools, to the illiteracy programme announced by David Blankett this week, to green taxes and a radical competition policy which has little patience with the notions of "national champions". And there is quite a lot more.

tion. The other, much the more in recent lectures by both trading industries were a means hurt kind of politics. And welspecific oo policy, is What Brown himself and David Blunt to an end, and not ends in fare reform, as Lavard implies. kett, demonstrates that neither equality (of opportunity) nor the role of the state have been abandoned by Tony Independent, is a "very helpful" Blair's Labour Party. It's true, antidote to the idea that noth- of course, that revisionism ing can be achieved by a about Labour's past comes Labour government without thick and fast - whether it's shared for all the protestations, increasing spending and borBlunkett declaring in his lecby some of his less outspoken rowing. Some of it is party policy; some of it isn't. But it erument entering the 20th cen-

more equal or egalitarian society simply by taking money from one set of people and redistributing it to others", or Margaret Beckett, one time left-wing firebrand, saying in a BBC TV interview on Sunday that she was "neither ruling in oor out" privatisations by a Labour government. What Layard's book, in particular, helps to demonstrate is how much room that leaves the left. Especially if you realise that the use of higher income tax for the

to an end, and not ends in themselves. But as with equality, so with the role of the state. Not all Tories want to shrink the state. Sir Edward Heath's lofty dismissal of some of the dominan notions in his own party is by some of his less outspoken

the manifesto discussed by the Cabinet yesterday - is shifting inexorably towards progressive reductioo below the 40 per ceot share of GDP that the state takes. What's refreshing

about Layard is how relaxed he

is about keeping a level that is oot much higher than 40 per

cent, but is not much lower,

Not that this won't mean

some real pain for some. The windfall tax belies the notion fare reform, as Layard implies. means a transfer of some benefits, such as top-up pensions, to well-regulated private insurance. In time a new system of student maintenance loans may be augmented by starting the crosion of state-paid university tuition fees - which for the well

ings to be ploughed back by Labour into other parts of the public sector, such as health and, above all, an education system that starts to provide equality of opportunity.

Tony Wright quotes approv-ingly the remark that services that are only for the poor end up as being poor services. This is a critical difference between new Toryism and New Labour. In the NHS it will mean halting the flight by the prosperous from a health service that Nigel Lawson, oo less, regarded as one of the most efficient deliverers in the developed world. The same goes for education. Wright quotes, again approvingly, but without codorsing his prescription of reintegrating the best of the private sector in the state system, George Walden's coodemnation of an "apartthat Labour's programme is heid" in which 7 per cent of chil-"80 per cent of the GCSE and A-level league table prizes".

None of this would happen overnight; much of it, perhaps oot even in the first term. But here's the point: Labour cynics talk easily about Tony Blair having got "his betrayal io first". That's one way of describing it; another may be off is little short of a scam. But that Blair, as Margaret

# Towards genuine consent in Ulster

Parity of esteem for both communities deserves to be more than a theory, says Marjorie Mowlam

Ireland, as in all other politics of a oegotiated peace areas, Labour will apply the principle of fairness not building confidence between favours. In the vernacular of Northern Ireland politics that means affording each community, unionist and nationalist, "parity of esteem". The focus is on the need for members of both oationalist and unionist traditions to feel that their Britain and Northern Ireland. traditions to feel that their rights and identities are fully

In Northern Ireland, grant-ing respect to one community is often seen as taking it away from the other. This is a dangerous zero-sum game. It is the duty of politicians from Britain, Ireland and Northern Ireland to break out of it. The ending of the IRA ceasefire and on top of that the events last summe at Drumcree have correnched attitudes within the communities, so it is essential to be proactive in rebuilding trust and

The Downing Street declaration signed in 1993 achieved parity of esteem at the level of ideas. It offered to the nationalists a recognition that the people of ireland alone have the right to self-determination. And it offered Unionists the guarantee that any exercise of self-determination would be subject to the consent of the majority of the people of Northern Ireland. As Tony Blair said recently, this approach and the principle of consent has now been accepted by all parties in Britain, Ireland and Northern Ireland, with the

exception of Sinn Fein.

To our policies for Northern politics as it is about the high the communities. This is often talked about, but flesh is sel-dom put on the bones. We have plans to do that. That is why Labour will incorporate Of course the question of rights especially minority and community rights - is not undisputed in Northern Ireland. That is why we will continue to consult with the parties in the talks on developing a local bill of rights. But the convention as a basic framework has wide support in both communities

and offers us a way to proceed. There are serious problems with community support for policing in parts of Northern Ireland. As well as negotiation between the Northern Ireland parties on the issue, political action is necessary in Westminster to improve the openness and accountability of the police and to ensure that it reflects both communities more accurately. Recent reports by the UK police inspectorate and a senior former Northern Ireland civil servant have pointed to weaknesses in the system. Labour is examining the rec-

ommendations of these reports alongside its own proposals. Religious discrimination in employment in Northern Ire-land is a blatant symbol of unfairness. The Fair Employ-ment Act exists to help combat it, but more needs to be done. Parity of esteem is as much As a first step, we must recon-



Confrontation: Orangemen murch through the nationalist Ormeau Road area of Belfast

it a statutory duty for government bodies to take equality of the independent reviewers did opportunity into account not pack up in five months of through more rigorous enforcement of the Policy Appraisal and Fair Treatment guidelines.

Nothing reveals better the absence of trust and confidence and the dangers of playing zero-sum games than the issue of appalling events at Drumcree when its findings were published recommendations in the a comprehensive settlement. about the low art of day-to-day sider the effectiveness of exist- last month, the Government report; and to do all it can to

ing policies. In the public sector, announced a further period of for example, we intend to make consultation. What they hoped to learn in just eight weeks that

- and still isn't - clear. I have recently met groups on both sides living oo or ocar two of the most disputed routes -the Garvaghy Road in Portadown and the Ormean Road in parades and marches. The Belfast Both groups were concerned that what happened last last year drove the Government year should oot happen again to set up a review (which Labour Labour is committed to: uphold had called for since 1995). But the rule of law, implement the

written and oral evidence wasn't

help mediate and resolve disputes through agreement. The lack of local input into

decisioo making is a problem for both communities. Direct rule from Westminster is far from ideal and that is why agreement for Northern Ireland, including a devolved assembly elected by propor-tional representation and designed to allow both communities to work together and share power in the interests of all the people.

There are good indications

of that happening oo the ground in some areas now - in some district councils and in the local partnerships put together to distribute e block of European Union funding. It is a practice we will support and encourage. And we will introduce measures to make the many quangos that administer policy in Northern Ireland of both communities.

Labour and the Tories both accept the constitutional principle that a devolved assembly can exist in Northern Ireland Britain. But the plain fact is that Northern Ireland as distinct

political circumstances and arrangements oeed the suppractical and mutually beneficial cross-border co-operation and improved working relations between Westminster and Dublin must be integral parts of Building trust in the devel-

I do not see why local people and their representatives should not be more openly consulted on what is discussed between the two governments when they meet. This is not a matter of ide ology bot a practical part of the process of building local politi-cal support for the work of the

oping North-South and Dublin-London relationships is essen-

tial too. That means more open-

oess, for example, in the

workings of the Anglo Irish Agreement and its mechanisms.

two governments. The theory of the peace process has been developed over a long period, often at the inter-governmental level. The current phase – perhaps the most difficult – is the practical politics of reaching local agreement. Disillusionment with the current talks process is widespread. There has not been the substantive progress we hoped for last June. Pressures on the parties in the talks are mounting and the uncertainty

created by the impending gen-eral election doesn't help. A new government will want to bring new impetus into that without threatening the process, but couldn't just com-integrity of the union with pel the participants to talk. pel the participants to talk. Trust and confidence between the parties and the communities they represent has to grow that new constitutional to enable real progress to be made. We cannot counteract all port of both communities living the years of suspicion and disthere to work. This means that trust overnight, but there is a lot we can do based on Labour principles of fairness and jus-tice. The people of Northern Ireland deserve nothing less.

> The writer is shadow Northern Ireland Secretary.

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# business & city BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

# US pair shrug off windfall threat with £1.5bn Yorkshire bid

**Chris Godsmark** Business Correspondent

Two US power companies admitted they would have no problem affording Lahour's planned windfall tax on the privatised utilities yesterday as they launched a joint agreed £1.5bn takeover hid for Yorkshire Electricity.

The offer leaves Southern Electric as the last of 12 privatised regional electricity com-

panies (RECs) neither taken tine, Deputy Prime Minister, over nor facing a hid. If the two US companies, AEP of Ohio and Public Service Colorado from Denver, gain control of Yorkshire, it will leave a total of seven RECs in American hands. The others are: Northern; Sweb; London; East Mid-

lands; Midlands; and Seeboard. Embarrassment at the latest foreign takeover approach spilled over into the Commons yesterday, with Michael Heselcalling on other countries to allow outside bids for their utilities. He said he was "constantly urging the US and other countries to have open economies".

The Government is also likely to be on the defensive over the two hidders' reaction to Labour's proposed windfall tax. Linn Draper, AEP's chairman, said the US companies tions for the cost of the tax and

had concluded they could afford it. He explained: "We wouldn't have made a bid if we didn't have a good example of the size." The comments were welcomed by John Battle, Labour's energy spokesman: "This just goes to show it's not the problem the

Tories make it out to be." The windfall tax bill would come on top of a possible £30m which Yorkshire said it may be forced to pay back to its pensions scheme following a re-

Shares in both Yorkshire and Southern surged on yesterday's bid news. AEP and PS Colorado above Friday's closing price of 818.5p. Yorkshire shares rose to 882p, a rise of just 7 per cent, reflecting some uncertainty over whether the hid would be referred to the Monopolies and

cent landmark ruling against
National Grid by the Pensions
Ombudsman.

Mergers Commission. Southern
Electric gained 23.5p to 770p.
Christopher Hampson. Yorkshire's non-executive chairman said the offer was "very full and fair". He continued: "We held are jointly offering 927p a share out for a good price. We didn't for Yorkshire, 13.3 per cent accept the price that they offered at first ... it was a heil of a lot less than they're offer-

> ing now." Analysts dampened specula-tion of a rival bidder appearing

Sources close to PowerGen, the privatised generator, played down the possibility that it would bid for Yorkshire. Power-Gen was blocked by the Government from buying Midlands Electricity last year but is thought to have been examining another bid for a REC should Labour win the next election.

The two US utilities said this was the first time they had made a joint bid, but had been eyeing UK utilities for several

months. AEP and PS Colorado have a combined market value of \$10.3bn (£6.2bn) and supply 4 million customers. They said 25 per cent of the £1.5bn purchase price for Yorkshire would be financed by equity with the rest from debt.

They hinted yesterday iii a more aggressive approach towards the UK gas and electricity markets after domestic competition takes held next year. Comment. page 17

Building societies: Members endorse conversion plans A&L sets flotation date Leeds and Skipton vow to remain mutuals

# Green light for £12bn Halifax stock flotation

**Banking Correspondent** 

Halifax Building Society's £12bn flotation is firmly on track after the vast majority of fits 9 million members voted in favour of its conversion to a bank, clearing the way for share pay outs worth an average of £1,300 to individuals in June.

- The vote at the special general meeting held at the Sheffield Arena was virtually rendered redundant, however, as Jon Foulds, chairman of Halifax, said the resolution to convert to a bank had already

been passed by postal votes. "This won't be the biggest exercise in democracy this year, but it will be the secondbiggest," Mike Blackburn, chief executive of the society, said.

Some 5.15 million of the society's 6.9 million investing members voted for the plan while just 110,000 voted against. The total number of votes cast lin favour was significantly more than the 3.3 million needed to approve the conversion plans. Just 1,090 members struggled through the icy wind to the Sheffield Arena. Despite the low turnout, members heard passionate speeches pitched painst the conversion plans. Leo Westhead from Scar-

friumph of selfish, short-term invidualism over collective comnunity concern. To my mind it an act of social vandalism." Mr Foulds responded: "I hink the Halifax has outgrown the option of using a registered

mutualism." He received the surprise support of John Spalding, a former chief executive of Halifax. Speaking from the floor, Mr Spalding sympathised with those members of the society who had spoken so passionately in favour of mutuality.

But, he said, it was "quite clear that the day of the great

Two medium-sized huilding societies, Leeds & Holbeck and Skipton, yesterday pledged to remain mntual as they announced increases in profit, Leeds & Holbeck made £8.27m before tax last year, an increase of more than £4m. Skipton made £31.76m, against £27.23m in 1995.

Ian Ward, chief executive of Leeds & Holbeck, said the society planned to remain a leading independent building society as it believed this was in the best long-term interests of its borrowing and investing members. He added that the cost income ratio of 39.8 per cent and cost to asset ratio of 0.86 per cent were lower than almost all other banks and building societies.

national building society was over". Some of the 30 or so speakers from the floor at the two-and-a-half hour meeting borough said: "The success of had made long journeys. Pro-this resolution will represent the fessor Jacob Ziegel had travelled from Toronto to complain he was unable to receive his distribution of shares because of Canada's legal regulations.

Mr Foulds told him he had

sor Ziegel pointed out that this members like him who reside abroad. Around 70,000 members live overseas, of whom 30,000 live in North America and are also unable to receive free shares.

Serge Lourie, who has led the Halifax Action Group, reminded Mr Foulds of his words in an interview in 1994 in which he said he was convinced of the benefit of mutuality. The annual report of Halifax that year recorded the merits of mutuality too, Mr Lourie said.

"We believe the conversion process has been fundamentally flawed. The transfer document is biased and does not give the arguments against becoming a bank," he said, pointing to the lower borrowing rates and higher savings rates offered by huilding societies compared to

The meeting also heard con-cerns about disabled members who may be losing out because their accounts are held in trust. While a Bill sponsored by Douglas French, Conservative MP. will rectify this issue for societies announcing conversion plans in the future it will have come too late for Halifay members Just over 4 million will receive

the minimum allocation of 200 free shares. The rest will receive this,

plus an additional hand out of up to 981 shares depending on the balance of their accounts on 25 November 1994 and 24 Feb-



The ayes have it: Jon Foulds, chairman (right), and Mike Blackburn, chief executive of the Halifax Building Society, preparing for the members' vote at a special meeting in Sheffield yesterday

Photograph: John Voos

# Alliance suffers in price war

Financial Editor

Alliance & Leicester spent hacks and discounts to attract new business last year, but competition was so intense that its market share in 1996 still plunged 40 per cent.

The society, which an-nounced that its stock market flotation was provisionally set for 21 April, spent a total of £143m on all forms of mortgage

incentives during the year. But roughly two-thirds of this was the continuing cost of mort-

years where the discounts were it averaged 3.1 per cent but in still in force. The balance was the the fourth quarter it rose to 3.5 cost of cash-backs and discounts required to win new husiness during the 1996 price war.

A&L said it had chosen not to follow the very aggressive pricing adopted by many com-petitors in the first half of the year, "preferring to maintain profitability rather than huy market share". Gross mortgage lending for 1996 fell from £2.9bn to £2.2hn in a growing market.

However by the fourth quarter the price war had eased and A&L's market share began to re-

gage deals agreed in previous cover. For the year as a whole £1,100 each to members. The per cent. This compares with 5.2 expenses during 1996.

per cent for the whole of 1995. A&L's policy is to write off the cost of discounts over the periods for which they are in force, rather than the policy of some other societies of spreading them over the average life of a mortgage. Peter White, the chief executive, said this was "prudent" compared with many

other UK mortgage lenders. Analysts believe the planned conversion to a bank will hring a windfall of approaching

society said the conversion project cost £26m in administrative

documents for more than 3 million members, and the expenses of the meeting in December at which members approved the proposal. There was also a supplementary depreciation charge on property of £27m.

Profit hefore tax was £306m. a rise of 6 per cent, but the underlying change before conversion costs and other exceptional items was a 10 per cent rise to £359m operating profit.

## New-look **GUS** gets finance director

Nigel Cope

Great Universal Stores appointed its first finance director in a decade vesterday as new chairman Lord Wollson continued his shake-up of the

mail order group.

The new man is David Tyler. 44, who joins from Christie's International. Mr Tyler had been finance director at the auction house since 1989 after spells with Unilever and County

GUS's last fmance director. Trevor Spittle left in 1987. Since then the £6.8bn company, which also owns Burberry and Scolch House, has had no designated finance director on its 12-strong board. It is almost certainly the only FT-SE100 company that has felt it could do without such a function.

It is understood that prior to his move to the honorary presidency last year, the former chairman Lord Wolfson of Marylebone used to fulfil the fi-

nance function.
But with GUS becoming more active in the corporate arcna following last year's "Ton acquisition of Experian, the US data company, a more tra-ditional board structure has become more appropriate.

"The company didn't have a finance director but Lord Wulfson decided it was time they had one," GUS said vesterday. There were two other board

room appointments at GUS yesterday. Also of key significance is David Bury, 54, who becomes commercial director and treasurer after joining GUS in April. He will have a roving brief at executive level with responsibility for strategy. It is also likely that he will play a key rule in acquisitions, Louise Patten, 43 a former partner at Bain & Co. the strategy consultants joins as a non-executive director.

# EMU means 'equity boom and forex job cuts'

raises traders' confidence in the mark.

Meanwhile analysts claimed that in-

vestors were switching funds away from bonds which had been heavily affected by EMU speculation and into gilts instead.

"We're advising switching out of Spain into the US, and out of Italy into the UK," said

Phyilis Reed, European bond strategist at

EMU might be delayed was provoked by a poll in Germany's weekly news magazine Der Spiegel on Sunday, showing 77 per cent of Germans favoured a delay to EMU. At

INTEREST RATES

6.62

5.72

0.43

575 52.5

Principle Change (or Change) Falls

0.43

Germany 3.19

Speculation that the starting date for

vette Cooper

report on the implications for he financial markets of a single currency launched yesterday aimed that the outlook for equities was "unamhiguously "Job cuts are inevitable in the

orex market ... and there are harp differences of opinion on whether European monetary union will give hirth to a bond market to rival US treasuries, for just kill the volatility that now anlivens European bond tradng," Reuters said. The report, "EMU Ex-

plained: Markets and Monetary Union", says that in the short ferm, London should not be disadvantaged if the UK stays butside EMU.

Andre Villeneuve, a Reuters director, said yesterday: "Even if the UK stays out of a single currency, the City of London will be in. I see no evidence that London will be disadvantaged in the likelihood of a broad-based EMU encompassing the weaker lira and peseta as

2141.60

FTSE SmallCap 2349.42\_

-1.20

-0.93

6977.80 +46.18 +0.7

18896.99 -137.55

-0.7 -0.5

indices

Reuters suggests that in the long term, if the UK stays out, huilding for a transformation of Frankfurt in particular will be well placed to play a stronger

European equity markets are expected to expand what-ever happens to EMU. The re-

ed by EMU speculation.

close of DM1.688.

STOCK MARKETS

Rumours that EMU might be delayed sent

the mark rising against the dollar yester-

tinned to move away from bonds affected

by EMU uncertainty, and into US bonds and UK gilts which have been less affect-

The mark rose to its highest level

against the dollar in two weeks amid wor-

ries about European monetary union. The dollar fell to DM1.67 compared to Friday's

3632.30 3.62

4015.30 3.39

2150.60 1816.60 3.57

2350 55 1954.06 2.90

2122.75 <u>17</u>91.95 3.52

7067.46 5032.94 1.94

22566.80 17303.65 0.85† 13868.24 10204.87 3.18†

3276.16 2253.36 1.51t

Source: FT Information

the European savings industry and monetary union could give the process a final decisive The pressure to expand pri-

vately funded pension schemes

ingly unsustainable. At the same EMU they can indulge in a last time, EMU will remove curblast of glorious speculation. rency risk and encourage crossborder investment with new Foreign exchange dealers,

on the nther hand, have less to port says: "Tens of millions of is growing as ageing European Reuters - especially those Europeans are about to he speculations make current pubswept up in an investment review iic pension provision increas-

blast of glorious speculation, betting on who will join the single currency, and testing the re-solve of politicians and central bankers. But after that, the volume of currency trading will

look forward to, according to Reuters - especially those speculating between European Asian currencies could fill the gap

Mark rises on rumours of convergence delay magazine, Focus, claimed the German

> cent of GDP from 60.5 per cent last year, above the Maastricht ceiling of 60 per cent. If Germany cannot meet the Maastricht criteria, it will make it far more difficult for EMU to go ahead without countries such as Italy, which may also miss the criteria nnly by a small amount. Analysts suspect that Germany will push for a delay in EMU rather than go ahead on a fudged hasis with Italy as part of the first wave.

> > ¥ (London) 199,246 + Y0.398 161.544

Oll Brent \$ 19.64 -0.24 17.82 Gold \$ 352.75 -0.6 398.30

97.7 +0.3 83.3

Testerity Day's chy Year Ago

finance ministry expected the country's

national debt to rise this year to 61.5 per

Prospects for the bond market remain harder to predict, according to the report. Betting on the convergence of European interest rates in the runup to monetary union has been lucrative husiness. Without that, the report says, "European analysts acknowl-edge that Europe's vihrant

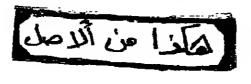
But bond traders could instead start to bet on future entrants to EMU, such as Hungary, or on whether governments are fudg-ing the Maastricht criteria. Financial markets would also be affected by the more fundamental questions about the strength of the euro; prospects for European inflation and the sustainability of the union.

Should EMU unravel, Mr Villeneuve predicts a different financial future for Europe: "Foreign exchange dealers would have to start hiring fast. There would be a lot of volatil-

ity in the currency markets." CURRENCIES Postel Hestoriky Change Year Ago \$ (London) 1.6335 +1.43c 1.5404 E (London) 0.6122 -0.54 0.6492 \$ (N York) ± 1.6025 -0.165c 1.5415 £ (N York) # 0.6240 +0.64 0.6487 DM (London) 2.7274 +0.22pt 2.2355

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Long Break (%) Year Ago

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# kshire bid

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NEWSPAPER

WE ARE



rashion ng/Summer

March 1997

STATE OF THE

INDEPT VIEN



COMMENT

'Gordon Brown may have trouble demonstrating the legality of the windfall profit tax in Westminster or Brussels but

successive posses of Americans with buiging wallets have comprehensively demolished the myth that the utilities

may have trouble demonstrating the legality of the tax in Westminster or Bressels, but successive posses of Americans with bulging walcannot afford it' ve comprehensively demolished the the myth that the utilities cannot afford it. AEP and PS Colorado brushed the issue aside like a fly bothering a horse in the Ohio sm. As proposed – a one-off levy of £3-5bn widely spread among the utilities – would not

test, for when the first of these bids came

rolling across the Atlantic a little under two

years ago, Labour's knee-jerk reaction was to say that the thing must be referred at all costs. Very Old Labour. These days and with

power now within its grasp, attitudes seem to be a little more sanguine. "It seems a bit stupid to refer this bid as there are hardly

any RECs left. The time for referral was

wheo all this process started," says John

Battle, energy spokesman. So what if Labour did have to decide? What would it do? If the

bid comes from the US, the policy seems to

be clear: "We are not opposed in principle to foreign takeovers," reiterates Mr Battle. As well he might, for the Americans were

positively falling over themselves yesterday to say that Labour's windfall profit tax presented

no kind of obstacle and had been fully factored

into the bid calculations. Gordon Brown

There's just a possibility, if only a remote be a problem, they said. This is a bit of an one, that the decision on whether to refer the latest American bid for a regional elecseem a good deal more relaxed about the tax tricity company to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, will fall to a Labour gov-ernment. If it does, it will be an interesting than the Brits, whose position Labour's pol-icy of referral would have protected.

Still, never mind. It looks as if timing will spare Labour the discomfort of having to make the decision. With every possibility that Southern Electric will have been snapped up by the time of the election too, Labour's scope for doing much with this industry beyond the windfall profits tax and tampering with price regulation looks severely limited. As for a clear statement of policy on mergers, we are still waiting ...

#### Defence rivals are missing an opportunity

That long-mooted merger between GEC and British Aerospace is the longest on again and off again story in British industry. What was billed in a Sunday paper at the weekend as a new round of talks about to begin turns out to have been an old round on the point of failure. The market yawned and the two share prices hardly moved.

All the same, this is a serious issue that

will not go away. The rapid consolidation in the US aerospace and avionics industry is bound to put heavy pressure on European rivals with the Americans turning increas-ingly to export markets for relief from vicious home-market cutbacks.

It so happens that the UK has not done too badly as a defence exporter, to a great extent as the result of its successes in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere in the Middle East. Exports of helicopters and aircraft to Germany and America are also geoerating substantial income. As a result, the UK was the second largest defence exporter in the world last year with approximately a quarter of the global arms markets.

Does New Labour have an old view on RECs?

Whether a merger of GEC and British Aerospace, or perhaps of the defence avionics businesses of the two companies, would make much difference to this record is an interesting question. There would certainly be cost cotting, which would be reflected quickly in jobs and profits. But there might also be upward pressure on prices charged to the Ministry of Defence by a single dommant supplier. Nor on present form is it obvi-ous that a reduction in competition would improve the performance of the British defence industry overseas.

Gobbling up national competitors should not be the main priority of this industry. The chief issue remains the insular, fragmented and national nature of the defence market in Europe, an enormous defence market which is excluded from the provisions of the European Union single market, Individual governments still treat their defence companies like nationalised industries. As the power of the American giants grows, an enormous opportunity is being missed.

to produce a new national champion through a merger of Aerospatiale and Dassault and how they are determined to keep the privanisation of Thomson CSF in French hands. Common sense says that integration in the European defence industry should be crossborder to make real gains, giving companies access to the wider European market. That is the target GEC and British Aerospace should aim at. A domestic merger within the UK is a sideshow and a distraction from the more important agenda.

#### Just a bout of Euro-pessimism

Anybody who follows closely the ebb and flow of debate over European monetary union will have known of Wilhelm Nölling's views long before he graced a British Sunday newspaper with an account of his plan to use Germany's constitutional court to block the country's membership of the single currency. Not only had newswires and Continental newspapers been running stories about the threat all week. But Mr Nolling, a former Bundesbank council member turned academie, is also a known Eurosceptic.

Not surprisingly, some Germans - and he is one - are opposed to the single currency. ower of the American giants grows, an dominantly Eurosceptic British press seizes Look at the way the French are battling on it with evident glee. Why even the Ger-

mans think it's crazy, it can be said, and so the impression deepens that the whole thing is in trouble and probably won't happen.
That may be the ultimate outcome, but for

the time being it would be foolish to bet on it. Every day brings a raft of speeches and statements about the single currency, few of which advance the sum of human knowledge very much. Each one is nonetheless used by finan-cial markets as another trading opportunity. So there is a new mood in the markets this

week, partly because of the Nölling effect, partly because of rumours that the Bundesbank has had a row with a leading can-didate to run the European Central Bank, Wim Duisenberg. After a bout of euphoria about prospects for the single currency going ahead on time, the markets are having a bout of Euro-pessimism. Traders will for the moment believe any old rumour about in-fighting and obstacles.

In truth, it is far to early to say what is going to happeo one way or the other. It is more than a year before the decisioo on whether to postpooe the start of the single currency needs to be taken. No politician has ever taken a tough decision 12 months ahead

The financial markets will probably go through the cycle of over-optimism and overpessimism at least once or twice more before spring 1998. By theo, the outlook might be very different; the French and German economies could be expanding fast and unemployment falling.

# Thorn to axe 360 at rentals division

Thorn, the troubled retailer, is to close 90 branches of its jobs in an effort to improve efficiency. The company, which has been dogged by poor trad-ing and a sliding share price since its demerger from Thorn EMI last August, is also re-structuring its central support functions in the UK to cut costs. In America it is introducing

designed to improves sales and encourage customer loyalty. The action came as speculation mounted in the City regarding possible management changes at Thern following the company's disappointing per-formance. The shares have halved since the demerger and were hit hard by a profits warn-

several promotional schemes

ing last month. Michael Metcalf, the chief executive, was not available for comment yesterday but some analysts said changes were likely. One analyst said: "Giv-

en what has happened, it would hardly be surprising if heads were to roll." The company said it had received no pressure Radio Rentals chain and cut 360 from investors for a board-

room shake-up. Thorn said the UK store closures would involve a £10m charge against this year's profits but would then yield savings of £6m a year. The stores earmarked for closure are the smaller, underperforming branches that are in poor retail locations. The 90 stores account for 15 per cent of all Radio Rentals outlets but gen-erate 7 per cent of sales. The stores were only operating at half-efficiency," Thorn said.

The City responded posi-tively to the changes, marking Thorn shares nearly 10 per cent higher to 203p.

Though analysts predict further store closures at Radio. Rentals. Thorn plans to continue to roll out its Crazy George's format and should have about 60 stores in operation by the end of the year.

In the US, Thorn is to woo rental customers with a series of promotions that offer rewards for loyalty. Under one of the offers, called "6/50", customers who remain loyal for more than six months on a rental contract receive a 50 per cent discount for the remainder

of the agreement. "We have a high churn rate in the US and we are hoping to increase customer numbers and lock them in," said Thorn's spokesman Jim Donovan,

The company is also improving the support structure in the US by merging the field sales teams of two divisions, Rent-a-Centre and Remco. The changes were announced

alongside Thorn's third-quarter profits figures which showed an 8 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £123m for the nine months to 31 December: It said fourth-quarter performance would be affected by the thirdquarter trading figures, and the strength of sterling. Investment column,



A CABLE & WIRELESS COMPANY

## Debt standstill on Tunnel extended

**Peter Rodgers** 

Eurotunnel said yesterday it had reached agreement with its banks oo a oine-mooth extensioo of a standstill agreement covering £8bn of debts.

The extension, from 14 March to 14 December, is to take account of delays caused by last year's fire. But the company said the extra time did not signal problems in the bank negotiations over a financial reconstruction. The delay was oecessary because Eurotunnel had put off the shareholder meeting to approve the plan from April to the eod of June. Patrick Ponsolle, co-chairman of the company, an-nounced last month that he did oot want to put the plan to shareholders notil after fire

services had resumed.

damage to the tunnel had beeo

repaired and Le Shuttle freight

to agree the details of the financial reconstruction in time for shareholders to vote. The 225 banks agreed the extension of the standstill last Friday.

The company announced an 18-month debt standstill in September 1995 and this would have ended on 14 March without the extension, which required a vote of 65 per cent or more of the lenders by value to approve. Eurotunnel declined to say what the actual vote was.

The terms of the restructuring, agreed in principle last October with a steering committee of banks, must be fixed by the end of March so that a prospectus can be sent out in the first two weeks of April, to allow shareholders to vote oo the package by 30 June.

. A Eurotunnel spokeswoman said: "Working parties are studying the details of the various financial instrumeots and

# for 1,100 , new jobs

**Clifford German** 

Rising consumer confidence and increased high street spending are helping to create almost 1,100 jobs at Whitbread, Gowrings, and Index. Whithread, the brewing, pubs

and restaurants company, plans to create 300 new jobs by opening 35 more Costa Coffee stores over the next 12 months, mainly in and around London. New outlets are being opened this month in Putney, Goodge Street, Harrow and Waverley Station in Edinburgh.

They will increase the number of Costa Coffee ontiets by more than half to around 90 stores, and will take the operation further away from its traditional sites in airports and railway stations and on to high street locations.

These will place greater em-phasis on building up a take-away trade in coffee. As well as selling coffee beans it will market coffee spin-offs such as coffee cups and coffee machines. Demand for real coffee is expected to grow by 60 per cent by the year 2001, Costa's managing director, Mike Dowell, said yesterday. Costa has also taken over six

airport coffee stand concessions at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted airports currently operating as Steff's Cafes

Separately, Gowrings is opening five Burger King restaurants in Birmingham, Southampton, Bournemouth, Newbury and Newton Abbott. They will also employ an extra 300 people, and take the total number of Burger Kings oper-ated by Gowrings, which also operates Ford main dealerships, to 21.

A further 480 jobs are being created by Index, the Littlewoods-owned retailers. It will open five more stores across the country, creating 100 jobs, and open a £20m distribution centre in the West Midlands, adding another 380 staff to the payroll. The first store will be opened in Walsall in April, with the other four locations yet to

# Confidence Energy Group boosted paves way by takeover speculation

Chris Godsmark **Business Correspondent** 

Hanson's electricity and coal mining empire marked its historic split from the conglomerate yesterday with a better-thanexpected rise in profits and a strong boost to its share price. .

The surge reflected takeover speculation surrounding East-ern Group, the regional electricity company which forms one of Energy Group's main assets, following the US takeover bid launched for Yorkshire Electricity yesterday. Hanson bought Eastern, ooe of the UK's largest privatised power suppliers, in 1995 for £2.5bn.

Energy Group shares jumped 43.5p to 568.5p compared with Friday's closing price on the un-

official grey market, an in-crease of more than 8 per cent and valuing the company at £2.96bn. Energy Group investors received one share in the oew group for every 10 they

hold in Hanson. However investors were also relieved that Energy Group played down speculation that it was about to launch a big spending spree in the US. In a clear break with his Hanson past, Derek Bonham, Energy Group's executive chairman, made clear he was only planning smaller-scale acquisitions in the US in the next few weeks running into "the tens of millions of dollars rather than the bundreds of millions".

The news was interpreted as an attempt to calm fears that an

aggressive takeover policy would sharply raise the group's debts. Outlining demerger plans last month Energy Group executives had said the company was evaluating substantial investments in US generation. It already owns Peabody Coal, the world's largest privately owned producer of coal. The most likely short-term opportunity remains the purchase of an American power marketing company. Sources suggested discussions had gone beyond the due diligence stage and the two sides were now "negotiat-

ing on price". Energy Group revealed a 38 per cent rise in operating profits to £138m in the three months to the end of December, Earnings from the electricity busies more than doubled from £23m to £57m, reflecting East-em's purchase last year of coalfired power plants from National Power and PowerGen.

Eastern also said it now supplied 40,000 gas customers in tri-als of domestic competition in the South-west and South of close possible losses made oo gas contracts last year in the in-dustrial market, where it is second only to British Gas. Eastern was hit by the unexpected rise in the price of gas in 1996, having signed contracts to supply fuel to industrial customers at

low prices.

Meanwhile profits from the coal businesses in the US and Australia were unchanged dur-ing the quarter at £25m. Energy Group confirmed plans to pay a final dividend for the year to the end of March of 5.5p.



## Hanson completes demerger

became a byword for aggressive takeover activity in the 1980s, completed its demerger vesterday, leaving a rump of as-sorted building materials and electrical companies, writes

Chris Godsmark The demerger, which split Hanson's coal and electricity businesses into the separately quoted Energy Group, means that following its reduced stams the company's earnings now depend on the cyclical con- into additional demand for merged before the latest split.

operations in the three months to 31 December, Lord Hanson said: "Difficult conditions persisted in our UK markets but Hanson's combined operations our main businesses all per-

formed very creditably." However, the results showed some boost from the long-awaited improvement in the ever the results in 1995 includhousing market. "The housing upturn in the UK has translated

Hanson; the conglomerate that struction industry. Announc- bricks and we anticipate this will ing an 11 per cent increase in extend to our other building operating profits for these core
operations in the three mouths
one matter and the profits rose by 50 per cent to £6m.

Headline pre-tax profits in

incloding the demerged Energy Group slumped from £248m to £157m in the three months ed £205m of earnings from businesses later sold or de-

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# Shares in **Emap dive** on Arculus resignation

**Clifford German** 

Investors yesterday took fright at the unexpected resignation of David Arculus as managing director of Emap, the magazines and exhibitions group. Shares in Emap dropped by 28p to 785.5p, wiping £58m from the company's stock market value. His decision to join United News & Media comes only months after Emap was rocked by a corporate governance row

of two non-executive directors. At that time Sir John Hoskys, chairman, played down ru-mours of a rift between Mr Arculus and Robin Miller, chief executive, over who would succeed him when he retires next year. Mr Miller, tipped to suc- Emap board on Friday. His receed Sir John, said yesterday no decision had been taken over who would become chairman.

that culminated in the ousting

Some analysts were surprised by the sharp mark-down yesterday in the share price of Emap. The company said Mr Arculus's departure was of his

Nick Ward, an analyst at Credit Lyonnais Laing, said: The fact that Arculus is leaving is slightly disturbing." How-lever, he added: "But the place will not fall apart without him." Another analyst said the

companies, simplifying the management structure at Emap and bringing new expertise to United, which has expanded rapidly following last year's merger with MAI and the takcover of the Blenheim exhibitions group. Mr Arculus joined Emap as

corp rate planner from the BBC is 1972 and became group managing director in 1989. One of his main contributions has been in merging the business magazines and business exhibitions divisions. He was seen an outside candidate for the chairmanship, being more likely to move up to chief executive. He was head-bunted for his job.at United and his decision

sponsibilities will pass directly to the heads of the four operating divisions and he will not be replaced as managing director. Sir John said: "We are sad to see David go, but recognise the appeal of UN&M, which includes mainstream television

to leave was reported to the

Emap does not operate." Mr Arculus also emphasised the amicable parting. "I leave Emap in very capable hands. It's a company I admire greatly, he

and newspapers, areas in which

Mr Arculus said he would be



Opposing views: Emap's chairman, Sir John Hoskys, played down rumours of a rift between David Arculus (right) and Robin Miller (left) a few months ago

United, having operational responsibility for consumer publishing, hroadcasting and entertainment, which accounts for almost 80 per cent of group turnover and profits.

He declined to say how much

his remuneration package would be when be joins Unit-

Under his charge will be UK roughly equal in size to Emap. consumer publications including Express newspapers, Exholder in Emap, although it was change & Mart and Dalton's Weeldy, US consumer publicapose of his holdings in order to tions - mainly free pick-up magazines - the broadcasting further his intention of becoming a substantial shareholder in division and Miller Freeman, United News & Media. the business magazines and ex-

The price of United jumped hibitions group, which alone is 16.5p to 704p.

#### THE INVESTMENT COLUMN EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND

# Thorn prunes prickly problems posed by Radio Rentals

Thorn has been such a dismal performer since last August's Thorn-EMI demerger that shareholders are probably grateful for small mercies these days. Shares in the Radio Rentals and Crazy George's retailer have halved from their 408p level immediately postdemerger, but yesterday bounced 10 per cent to 203p on news of a store closure pro-gramme at Radio Rentals and a shake-up of the US business.

The more hopeful move is the closure of 90 smaller, under-performing branches of Radio Rentals. It will involve. a one-off cost of £10m but should then yield savings of

f6m a year.
But the US strategy looks
extremely optimistic. The US rentals market is so volatile that only 40 per cent of customers stay with their agreements for more than six feels squeeze months. This high churn rate - far higher than in the UK saddles Thorn with costly collection and refurbishment bills it is willing to do almost anything to cut. The Holy Grail is customer loyalty and Thorn is bending over backwards to achieve it through discounts which are unbelievably gen-erous. One scheme, called the "6/50" entitles anyone who remains loyal to Thorn for more than six months to a 50 per cent discount on their rental deal for the remainder of the contract. Though this will have a severe effect on margins, the company hopes to recoup the difference by winning more customers and per-

suading them to stay longer. The difficulty for Thorn's management is that, although the market responded positively to yesterday's actions, they do not alter some of the key underlying problems fac-

ing the business. -The most serious is litigation against the company in the US, where several US states are claiming customers have been charged inflated interest rates in Thorn's rental agreements. Meanwhile, at home, Thorn is proposed in the last Budget.
This could cut £10m from

Thorn's UK profits as the sale of warranties to customers at the end of the rent-to own contracts bas been a lucrative business. Add to this the impact of sterling's strength and weak trading both here and in America and it all adds up to

The US rentals market bas fallen by 3 per cent on a like-

afford to buy their gadgets rather than rent them. All this is a long way from

the glitter that was promised

when Thorn was decoupled from EMI, a business that is not doing too well either. Back then some analysts thought Thorn's rather dull rentals business might prove

more attractive than its more glamorous sister. Assuming Thorn makes its full-year forecast of £170m, the shares trade on a forward

rating of less than 8. The low rating reflects the group's difficult position but the company's bruised shareholders are probably best advised to hold on for some kind of recovery.

The continuing squeeze on nursing home hudgets felled another victim yesterday when Community Hospitals said it was pulling out of the business.

The decision to put its operation up for sale means Community has finally admitted that its policy of combining hospitals with nursing homes has not been a success. results.

Pre-tax profits up 28 per cent at £4.95m for the six months to December saw all the growth in hospitals, which saw their trading results rise from £5.08m to £6.2m. The continuing care division, which as well as mursing homes includes the home nursing business, also for sale, was flat at £1.34m.

said to be "at an early stage". but analysts are optimistic that the group will be able to realise resigned to the introduction of £30m. The homes, which range purveying rivals. Finchley in the south and out rather than organic expansion. Like many others, occupancy at a lowly 76.4 per cent has been hit by recently

opened homes. Assuming it can raise a de-cent sum for the operation, the for-like basis this year as cut-throat prices from electrical strategy looks sensible, if per-haps a little belated. Increased

Thorn: at a glance

throughput and an increased अtention to cost control instituted by Alan Pilgrim, who have the chief executive's rems a year ago, helped raise the operating margin from hospitals from 19.2 per cent to 21.5 per cent. The group's 10 hospitals situated in an are around London stretching from Surrey through Hertfordshire to Essex with outlying ones in the West Country and Yorkshire, benefit from strong local franchises.

That should put Community in a strong position : 15-4-12 its insurance company pay-masters, which provide 80 per cent of revenues, and should protect it from any attempt by naurers to cut rates as they huild networks of "preferred providers" for their healthcare services.

The company's "best view" of full-year profits of around £12.75m puts the shares, up 9p at 382.5p, on a forward p.e of 15. Worth holding as one of the few ways into the private hos-

#### **PizzaExpress** still on track

PizzaExpress has been a phe-nomenal performer since the The nursing home side has run 32-year-old pizza chain re-through four directors in as versed into Star Computer in many years and the hospitals early 1993. In just four years, side has outperformed of late, a trend continued in the latest around 70p to 560.5p. up 2p vesterday, as management have taken what was a predominantly South-east of England concept and started to extend it across the

Pre-tax profits have rocketed from £1,42m in 1993 to £9.98m last year and yesterday the group announced it had grown another 54 per cent to £6.28m in the six months to Negotiations with potential . December. This success is all buyers for continuing care are the more remarkable for the format have hardly changed in a generation which has seen net asset value of around the arrival of a flood of pizza-

in the north to London's at a more upmarket audience. It still imports most of east as far as Chelmsford, its ingredients from Italy (and should prove attractive to an is therefore benefiting from industry increasingly aware of the strong pound) and gen-the need for consolidation unrely attempts to make each restaurant different, with attractions and features ranging from clock towers and river terraces to jazz.

> The "affluent, aspirational 20 to 50-year-olds" who crave this combination are still not being catered for, according to David Page, the chief executive. He reckons they could double or triple the size of the 127-strong chain in five years. The first (franchised) overseas restaurant opens in Los Angeles next week and there could be 10 to 15 within 18 months, ranging from the West Coast of the US to Delhi.

In the meantime, there is plenty to go for in the existng business. Last October's £25.5m share-financed deal tu buy in 32 franchised outlets and one other restaurant will replace £719,000 of royalties with a contribution of £4.5m

in a full year. There are still eight franchised locations to be bought, with negotiations under way for half of them, which could eventually deliver up to £1m

This is a chain still far from maturity, with restaurants open for more than 10 years still producing growth of around 10 per cent and group like-for-like growth ahead of last year. Kleinwort Benson's forecast of full-year profits of £15.5m puts the shares on a forward multiple of 30, falling to 21, which looks up with

# Cloned lamb sends PPL shares soaring

**Magnus Grimond** 

Shares in PPL Therapeutics, the biotechnology group, soared 52.5p yesterday after it said it had been granted an exclusive licence for the technology which created Dolly the lamb, hailed as the world's first cloned animal. PPL also said it had filed a patent to protect the new scientific techniques.

Ron James, managing director, described the success with Dolly, which has an indentical genetic make-up to its six year-

entific advance" which would underline PPL's leading position in "transgenic" technology. This new breakthrough will

open up the possibility for a variety of additional products to be produced economically by PPL. Some of these products could not be produced by existing technology - for example, human serum albumin used in the treatment of burns and other traumatic injury.

PPL was floated on the stock market last year to commercialise a process by which human

tered or transgenic animals.

Dolly was the result of work done by PPL's scientists working with the Roslin Institute, near Edinburgh, Roslin, which was established as a government research operation, has agreed to give PPL an exclusive licence for the technology in exchange for undisclosed royalties.

PPL already has a flock of sbeep from a transgenic father, created by injecting DNA into an embryo and placing it back in the womb so that the animal born in the usual way. Dolly

large quantities in genetically al- has involved taking a cell from 1 Anti Trypsin or AAT for a six year old "mother" to replace the genetic information in . an unfertilised egg. Alan Colman, PPL's research

director, said the cloning process would allow scientists to single out more productive animals. At present five to ten prospect that the new cloning transported street have to be creating to product also keep aled in the hope that one will deal with currently unbreating to be a productive annual. Table diseases like BSE and The cloning process would eliminate that process, resulting in more cost efficiency. Mr Colman suggested.
PPL's lead product is Alph

treating cystic fibrosis, which is currently in early-stage human trials. The proteins used in AAT are milked from the transgenic sbeep before Mr Colman held out the

scrapic. He suggested that that the cells which cause the dis-eases might be able to be removed from cattle and sheep

## Biotech entrepreneur set for one more float

Magnus Grimond

Chris Evans, the biotech entrepreneur with a string of startups to his name, yesterday pledged not to launch another new venture for at least five years as he set the latest of his afledgling companies on the croad to the stock market. Enviros, an environmental sproducts and services group which numbers the Prince of Wales among its customers, will double annual sales to around £20m following the anmouncement that it is to acquire Aspinwall, said to be one of the UK's leading environmental consultancies, for £7.5m.

Mr Evans, who will see his stake in Enviros diluted from around 60 per cent to just under a half as a result of the deal, said he expected the group to float in 18 months to two years when it achieved "critical mass" through further acquisitions and moved into profit. He pre-dicted the 15-month-old group would become the largest environmental services company in the UK within four months.

But this would be the last company he would establish on his own account for "five to six years", be promised yesterday. Mr Evans' quoted compa-nies already include the biotech groups Chiroscience and Celsis, along with Toad, the car security products company wbose shares crashed earlier this month. He said he was now "at saturation point".



to establish another company for five to six years

The enlarged Enviros will be valued at around £25m by the latest huy, which is being paid for via the issue of £6.25m in shares and the rest in cash. Aspinwall was founded in 1972 by its eponymons chairman. Professor Rod Aspinwall, and turnover is now approaching £10m. Among the services provided by the group is the sort of environmental audit under-

losses of between £1m and £2m in its first year, has already made three acquisitions. Mr Evans said QuantiSci, a consultancy to heavy industry, Biotal, which develops bioscience applications, and Bio-Industries, involved in waste treatment, were among taken by Shell in the wake of the the best hrands in the business.

uproar caused by plans to dump the Brent Spar offshore oil loading buoy in the Atlantic. Enviros, which chalked up

 Simon Engineering is selling the access division's industrial businesses to Terex Corporation for \$90m (£55m). The disposal is in line with Simon's plans outlined last September to sell its access side to cut group debts. A spokesman for Simon said it would use \$78m to repay early the full amount of the US loan notes carrying the heaviest covenants and interest rates. In 1995, the businesses being sold had turnover of £11.8m, equal to 72 per cent of the access division's total.

 Regal Hotel, which last year paid £122m for the 60-strong chain of White Hart hotels from Forte, amounced a 257 per cent surge in profits to £10.35m. Regal said it had completed the first phase of integrating the White Hart hotels, and added that the full benefits would come through this year. The company said average room yield rose by 2.8 per cent with occupancy up by 4.9 percentage points and room rates down 4.1 per cent. The dividend

 Whitehead Mann Group is to seek a listing on the Stock Exchange. The company provides executive search, executive selection and consulting services to several blue-chip clients covering a range of industrial and commercial sectors. Its operating profit for the year ended 31 March 1996, before accounting for exceptional property costs of £800,000, was £1.9m.

 Shorco Holdings warned that analysts' forecasts would not be met due to tough second-half trading. It said results for 1996 would show profits of £500,000-£600,000, compared to some predictions by analysts of up to £800,000. The company also announced the £262,000 purchase of the steel security cabin business owned by

 Helphire, which provides car hire and repair services to motorists involved in accidents that were not their fault, is seeking a full listing that will value the group at £15m. The company intends to raise £6m to meet growing demand. In the year to last March, it made taxable profits of £327,000, up from £64,000 in 1994/95. Brokers to the issue are Williams de Broe.

• Ewart, the property group, reported a 13.2 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £804,000 in the half-year to the end of October. Earn-ings per share improved from 1.42p to 1.92p. The dividend is being lifted 40 per cent to 0.7p.

• WEW Group bas appointed Anna Vinton, founder of the Reject Shop, as a non-executive director. Along with ber former husband, she built up the Reject Shop, which went public in 1988 and was acquired in 1994 by Upton & Southern.

 Café Inns said Michael Norris, its finance director, had left the company to pursue other interests. Shares fell 5p to 185p.

# SmithKline settles US dispute

standing legal dispute with the US government for overcharg- Laboratories never intentionally ing Medicare for patient ser-vices through its Clinical

Laboratories division. The payment will end civil ed claims from 1989 to 1996,

and follows last week's an-

had reached a tentative settle-

nouncement that the company

"SmithKline Beecham Clinical violated any laws."

He attributed the disputes partly to "ambiguities over reg-ulations and guidelines," and and administrative claims said the company had decided against SmithKline for disput- to make a settlement to avoid "enormous potential costs and uncertainties connected with lengthy litigation".

SmithKline Beccham, the pharmaceuticals giant, has paid Leschly, SmithKline's chief associated with the charges through the US Department of Health and Human Services, as well as another lawsuit brought by independent pharmacies

over alleged discriminatory pricing practices. Almost a year ago the company offered to pay \$30m to settle the dispute and also \$20m worth of generic Tagamet, the anti-ulcer drug. A spokesman said the pharmacies may still ap-SmithKline set aside \$406m peal that decision.

-	compa	ny nesui	15	
	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend ,
Community Hospitals (1)	36.38m (33m)	4.95m (3.88m)	9.8¢ (8.0p)	3.9p (3.4p)
Chape Motors (F)	262.6m (141m)	5.5m (3.35m)	20.5p (t.5.5p)	6.0p (5.0p)
Estatos & General (F)	9.29m (7.68m)	1.64m (-1.83m)	8.1p (-15.9p)	0.40
Errort (SP)	8.75m (2.73m)		2.82p (1.87p)	0.7р (0.5р)
Filch (F)	19.34m (16.43m)	1.84m (1.53m)	3.6p (2.6p)	0.5p (nlf)
Fature Integrated Tale, (1)		-29,000 (105,000)	-0.25p (1.29p)	
Bearbouse Green (1)	20.32m (11 14m)	1.63m (1.05m)	9.6p (7.0p)	2.4p
Hanson (Q1)	578m (549m)	157sn (248m)	20.3p (28.9p)	
Hanover Int (F)	8.86m (1.1m)	657,000 (S3,000)	11.7p (10p)	64.57
Hibertian Group (F)	- (-)	R31.83 (R49.36)	44.7p (62.9p)	10.1p
independent Hones. (F)	- (-)	9123.6m (R94.4m)	R167.8 (R134.6)	60e
London Pacific Group (F)	- (-)	\$33.2m (\$11.3m)	45.8c (41.1c)	29c (29c)
PhzzaExpress (I)	30.65m (19.53m)		7.6p (5.3p)	0.85p (0.7p)
Regal Hotal Group (F)	66.33m (t8.12m)	10.43m (2.91m)	4.68p (3.39p)	1p (0.5p)

1.19km (1.13km) 123m (113.5m) 8.6p (17.3p)

# Affordable Healthcare FREEPHONE QUOTING REF B11/DJ07 Lifetime from HealthCare

# market report/shares



# US bid for Yorkshire recharges speculators' batteries

The agreed £1.5bn bid for while the main FISE-100 in-librishire Electricity by two US dex recovered from a low of 4,316 to close just 5.7 points market much-needed support admit at 4331.1 with ex-diviand encouraged talk of further takeover action ahead of the

general election. Yorkshire ended 63.5p higher at 882p on the news, while Southern Electric, the only other remaining inde-pendent regional electricity ompany in England, added

Shares in Energy Group, newly demerged from the Hanson empire, also gained from positive sentiment toadding 43.5p to 568.5p on their first day of trading to top the list of best-performing blue chips. Goldman Sachs has a target price of 590p, while ABN-Amro Hoare Govett is

Boosted by the Yorkshire bid, the FTSE-250 index closed 10.9 points higher at 4,641.9 fered a big blow when Sappi

dend factors accounting for a loss of about seven points.

Hopes of further corporate action encouraged buyers in healthcare group Smith & Nephew, whose shares rose 5.25p to 195p on speculation that Johnson & Johnson of the US was lining up a bid.

Also moving on bid hopes were shares in Arjo Wiggins Ambien up 11 pto 172p on a

Appleton, up 11p to 172p on a weekend newspaper report that the struggling Anglo-Freuch paper group had held talks with its South African counterpart, Sappi, about a £2bn merger involving a £500m sale of Arjo's European paper distribution arm to its man-

It would not be the first time the two companies' paths have crossed. Two years Arjo suf-



#### MARKET REPORT

#### PATRICK TOOHER

tinued its recent strong run, ris-

ing 16.5p to 704p on news that

outbid it for SD Warren, the US coated paper producer. Although the recent talks between Arjo and Sappi report-edly came to nothing, analysts are encouraged to hear that Arjo is looking at ways to imweek's merger between St Louis, Arjo's 40 per cent shareholder with fellow French group Worms, could pave the prove its strategic position through some form of an asset way for the French to buy out the rest of Arjo that they do not already own. Daniel Melin, the former chief executive of swap or alliance - Arjo is heavily exposed to the mature carbonless paper market.

Arjo has been rocked by a St Louis, yesterday resigned as deputy chairman of Arjo fol-lowing the St. Louis/Worms

series of top-level defections since Stephen Walls, chief executive at the time of the 1990 merger between Anglo-American paper group Wiggins Teape Appleton and its French counterpart Arjomari-Prioux, left after the board rejected

become United's chief oper-ating officer with responsibil-ity for consumer publishing. broadcasting, trade magazines and exhibitions. Emap, by con-

trast, dipped 27p to 785.5p.
Currency concerns weighed on music publisher EMI, off 42p at 1,193p ahead of today's third-quarter figures, while the effects of a strong pound also effects of the concerns in consequents. affected shares in several insurers reporting this week, no-tably Commercial Union, 7.5p weaker at 701p. Guardian Royal Exchange was hir by sell advice from Societé Générale, ending 1.5p down at 288p.

A two-way pull was seen in Whithread, 4.5p better at 787p. Goldman Sachs rates the shares a buy but Credit Lyon-nais Laing prefers rival brewer Scottish & Newcastle, 12.5p ahead at 687.5p.

CLL sees a period of con-David Arculus, the well-regarded managing director of spending £600m in acquisi-publishing group Emap, is to nons over the last 18 months

Leisure and the Pelican and BrightReasons restaurant chains. The broker also thinks Whithread, having been the first to identify the huge po-tential for the UK eating-out

market, now has less scope

than its peers to improve highmanaged pub outlets such as Brewers Fayre and Beefeater. Gowrings, an unlikely com-hination of Ford motor dealerships and Burger King franchises, improved a penny to 106.5p. It is opening five more fast-food restaurants in

the first half of this year, bring-ing the number of Burger King outlets it operates to 21.

Dedicated fans of biotech outfit Stanford Rook were disappointed to hear that data on its tuberculosis drug SRL172 would not be analysed and made available as soon as hoped. The shares collapsed by

Ofex-listed Ritz Music Group, home to Irish crooner Daniel O'Donnell, reported pre-tax profits of £628,000 on sales of £4.8m in the nine months to December. The results, the first since Ritz was floated two months ago, are slightly ahead of those set out iected full-year profit of £551,000 after incurring a small fourth-quarter loss. Helped by Mr O'Donnell, who tops the UK country & western charts, shares in Ritz have jumped from their plac-

Dealings in AorTech, the heart valve manufacturer, are due to begin tomorrow. Piace by broker Bell Lawrie at 125p, the shares are seen opening at 140p. The company is raising a net £4.5m on is worth £21.5m at

ing price of 55p to 78p.

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# Washington provides the prelude to a year of rising interest rates

Washington, Washington, gives his Humphrey-Hawkins testimony to the US Senate Banking Committee tomorrow and Thursday. For people who are not up to speed on the finer points of US monetary procedure, all you need to know is that he gives this testimony twice a year and it is regarded as the most important guide to the future stance of US monetary policy for the next six

The thing that the markets will be looking for this time will be an indication of whether the Fed will increase interest rates in the face of a tightening labour market and very highly shares. The Fed chairman does not make interest rate decisions by himself, but he is primus inter pares on the Fed's Open Market Committee, which does make the decision, and so his judgement will carry great weight. Short-term interest rates in the US have not changed for fall of the mark is starting to more than a year, and with the next FOMC meeting on 25 March, the immediate question for the financial markets is whether rates will go up then.

There are three forces sug-gesting that they might. First, Dr Greenspan warned back on 5 December about the "irrational exuberance" of Wall Street, and since then share prices have gone on rising. The Fed might feel the need to lean against this rise in case it gets seriously out of hand and a subsequent collapse threatens the stability of the whole financial system.

Second, monetary growth, something that central banks always worry about, has been nudging upwards again, as the graph shows. And third, there is some pressure from pay settlements in the US which suggest that pay rises might start to feed through into inflation

later this year. The professional Fed-watchers seem pretty evenly balanced about the likelihood of a rise in March, but they are

lan Greenspan, the generally agreed that if the Fed chairman of the Feder-does not move next month, it Lal Reserve Board in is likely to tighten policy later in the year, perhaps in May. This will be a year of rising US

It will also be the year of rising rates elsewhere in the world. UK rates will go up for reasons which are pretty clear: strong economic demand, some indications of asset price inflation, particularly in house prices, and a tightening labour market. Less obviously, it may also eventually see rising interest rates in the other main economies, in particular in Germany, where the good export performance will be further reinforced by the recent fall of the mark.

Domestic demand remains stagnant and unemployment has risen sharply in recent months, but the view of the Bundesbank is that this shows the need for structural reforms in taxation and the labour market, rather than further cuts in push up raw material and energy prices, something which will eventually start to worry the Bundesbank. In any case, money policy in Germany is quite loose at the moment: money supply is tising at the top of the target range.

HamishMcRae

The coming period will be a test not just of the markets' nerve but also of the depth of support for central bank independence

the hack end of this year rates there will be climbing too. If they go up in Germany they will rise in the rest of continental Europe. Finally, expect Japanese

two years and that trend seems likely to continue a while yet.

perspective of the financial markets there is the fact that they will, at some stage in the next year to 18 months, have to push up the bill of rising interest rates. The hill may not turn out to be very steep, but a hill it will be.

But there is another and completely different perspective: the view of the rest of us. Over the past five years there has been a gradual movement towards giving central banks eater independence in setting monetary policy and giving governments less independence in setting fiscal policy. Within the European Union this switch is explicit in the Maastricht process, which requires the banks to be made independent, and requires governments to trim their deficits to meet the Maastricht criteria. If monetary union happens, monetary policy will be entirely independent

f political control. Elsewhere the move has been more patchy. Here in the UK the Bank of England has been given some greater degree of influence and may be given more after the election. In the US there

a weak one by previous stan- with Maastricht, but the perdards. The yen has become ceived success of Dr Greenspan very much weaker in the past at the Fed has given him enormous authority, while there has been continuing pressure to re-Put all this together and duce the fiscal autonomy of the what do you have? From the President and Congress, by measures such as the balanced budget amendment. In Japan the central bank has been formally given a greater degree of independence, though it is not clear how much this means in practice.

> constitutional movement have been a period of falling interest rates. From a practical political point of view it is much easier to applaud the wisdom of a central bank that uses its independence to deliver cheaper money, than it is to cheer when it wants to put rates up.

So the coming period of rising interest rates will be a test not just of the nerve of financial markets, but also a test of the depth of political support for the concept of central bank independence. If the financial markets react badly to rising rates, then the pressure on political support for independence becomes all the greater.

So this arcane practice where the Fed chairman spends a couple of days being questioned by the US Senate has two levels of significance. It will be interesting, even for people who do not follow each twist and turn of US interest rate policy, to catch a feeling for the concerns of the Fed chief at this stage of the cycle. As the year unfolds we can then judge the level of comfort or concern of the Fed. But it is interesting also as an overture to the great debate which we will hear over the next three or four years about the proper location of monetary policy in the po-

Higher interest rates are going to be unpopular. Should that unpopularity be loaded on to national central banks, an international central bank (such as will happen in Europe if EMU proceeds), or should it remain. in part at least, as a burden to be placed on elected politicians?

The Barclay brothers aren't the only fraternal partnership to come out of the East End and make it big in business. The Gold brothers - David and Ralph - have just launched their own executive airline at Biggin Hill, Kent. The Golds have always

liked the former Battle of Britain aerodrome - they But these past five years of owned the Biggin Hill flying club in the 1970s. Both are keen amateur pilots, and David has won the Malta air rally twice. The launch of Gold Air International brings the esti-mated assets of the Gold

Brothers to £230m. They own over 80 companies. Other interests include part-ownership of Birmingham City Football Club and 50 per cent of Sport newspapers.
The Golds made their first real money in the 1970s by buying and selling a retail property in London's

Queensway. A spokeswoman tells me they decided to launch an arrine now for two reasons: firstly, they wanted a safe airline they could use themselves around the UK and Europe, nnt least following the tragic death of Chelsea director Matthew Harding in an air crash. The Golds also think an

airline has great commercial promise - they'll be spending £15m on jets for the company this year alone. Arma Vinton, co-founder of the Reject Shop chain bought

three years ago by Upton & Southern Holdings, is joining WEW Group as a non-execu-As such Mrs Vinton is moving into familiar territory the Reject Shop, as its name suggested, sold cheap and cheerful domestic goods, while WEW stands for the

the shop that sells "What Everyone Wants". WEW's 80 stores in Scot-

it safe with own airline PEOPLE & BUSINESS is leaving to stand as a Labour candidate in the sale Labour seat of Leicester West, and is being replaced

East End big 'uns play

Giory days: Sir Winston

Churchill taking the salute

management is struggling to

improve the group's faltering

performance. Mrs Vinton ad-

mits: "Its going to be a tough job turning WEW around, but I think its do-able. They

have got the right strategy."
In fact Mrs Vinton was at-

tracted to WEW because of

the new men at the top -chairman James Millar, for-

merly head of William Lowe,

which sold out to Tesco, and

Boland, ex-head of the Free-

"They both came highly rec-

ommended - Lord MacLau-

rin at Tesco always said what

chief executive Richard

mans catalogue business.

a good business William

While most of the business

world is cosying up to the

mg. Andersen Consulting is

Andersen's current director

nf research and knowledge

taking a counter-cyclical view.

Lowe was," she says.

at Biggin Hill

by Stephen Locke - 3 former private secretary in Nigel Lawson. To be fair. Mr Lexas was a civil servant when he served Lord Blahy - he worked in the Treasury from 1976 to 1982.

Since then Mr Locke has worked for the Consumers Association, Latterly he has been the CA's head of research and policy.

As such he should have the right experience to run Andersen's research and knowiedge management arm. Look out for Andersen's next preject - " best-value spin-drier."

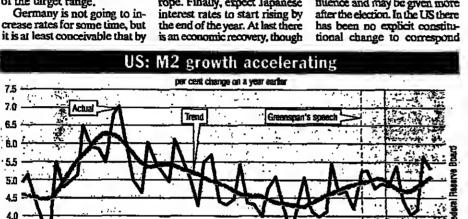
Wickes, the troubled DIY chain, has appointed its third firm of PR spin doctors in just over a year. Wickey parted company with Brunswick in favour of Dewe Rogerson last June when "accounting irregularities were discovered at the DIY chain. Dewe only agreed to stay on until the rescue rights issue was out of the way, since they already act for Wickes' rivals Boots, owner of Do It AlL'

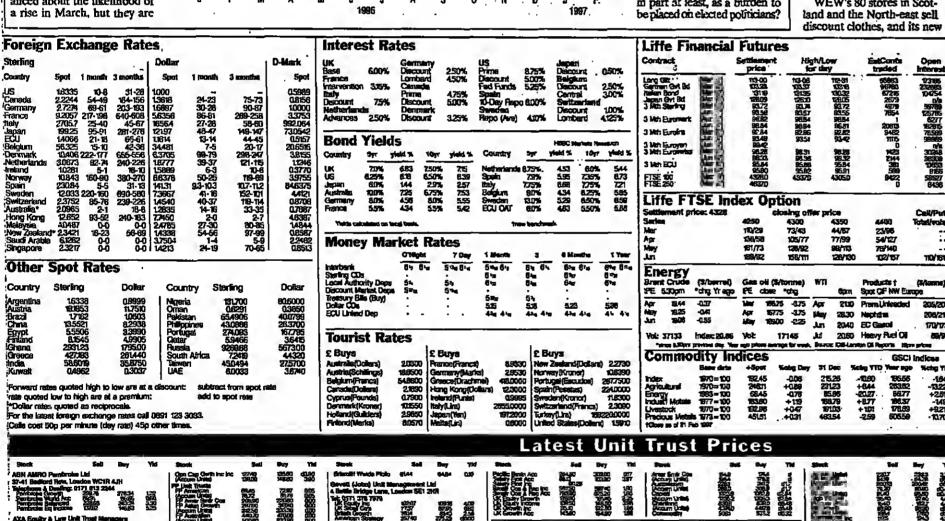
City PR people rely heavily on lunches to communicate with journalists (he wrote, sipping his mineral water). which should be good news for London restaurants like Rowley's, the Jermyn Street eaterie.

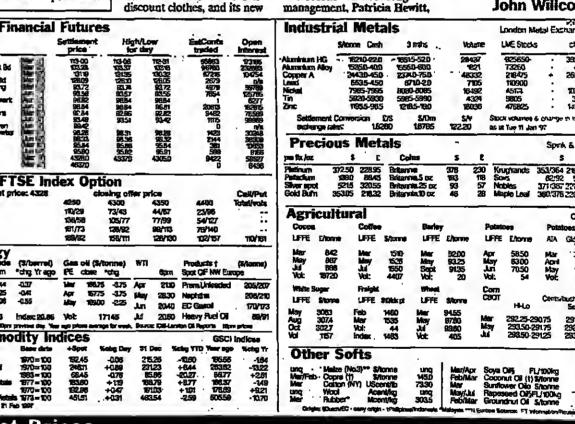
It is seeking to raise 4.5 £800,000 via the Enterprise Investment Scheme. Petrol: station king Richard Guest joint chairman and managing director, and joint chairman Christopher Burnett, a former merchant seaman, want the money to open further restaurants along Rowley's "steak and chips" lines. They say they may even start a restaurant outside London if the opportunity offers.

John Willcock

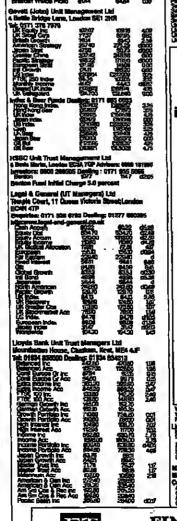
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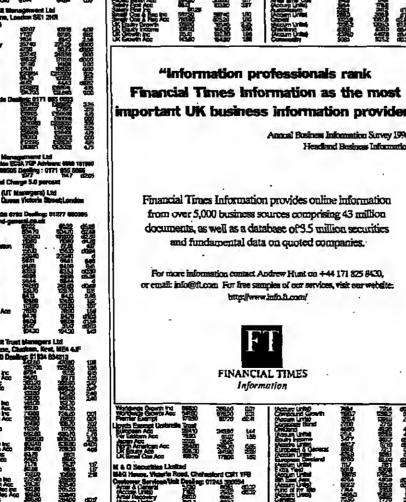


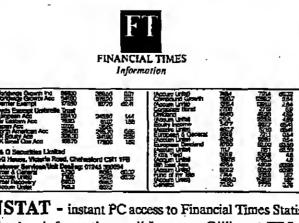




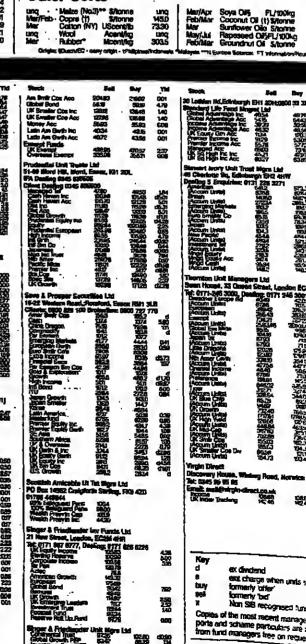


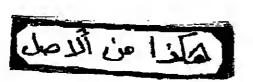






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crouch, the jockey refused treatment on three occasions. The press release had it that the Ulsterman told paramedic crews Richard Dunwoody, and his to "go away", and if that was in-deed the message, it may have been conveyed in slightly more fractured sternum, emerged from Ashford Hospital yesterday and continued to complain about the treatment he received following a fall at Kempton on Saturday. Elsewhere there seemed to be a suggestion said yesterday. fence, but I was unhappy with my initial treatment," the invalid that a part of his anatomy oth-It remains the contention of

Dunwoody, who is almost certain to recover in time for the Cheltenham Festival, that he was me Jones's goal celebrations at moved brusquely by his first attendant on Saturday. Peter Mo-Neile, Sumbury's clerk of the course, denies that and appears to believe more than the rider's breastbone was in contact with

woody] was hurt and in pain and probably not quite all there," McNeile said. "If you've had the stuffing knocked out of you, you don't feel too good. But there was no way the [first] guy tried to move him. There was no reason to, because it wasn't as if we had to clear the course for the

Dunwoody gets another kicking

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Lively Knight (Leicester 3.40) NB: Birthplace (Catterick 3.20)

next circuit. He might have put his hand on his shoulder but that was as far as it went." Adrian Maguire seems to have been frustrated by Dunwoody ever since, three years

ago, he rode 194 winners but still did not collect the jockeys' Association secretary who could championship. The Irishman rode five winners on Saturday (four of them trained by David Nicholson) but still could not get shead of his old foe on the newsprint. "It's a shame that a great day at Kempton has been marred by this, because if were correct. There will be no Richard didn't have a vintage Jockey Club inquiry into the inday then there were others who did," McNeile added. "It's cident, no semblance either of self-blame from the course's

think it was justified. "If I was Adrian Magnire I'd be feeling pretty hacked off. You ride five winners and that man Dunwoody still manages to keep you off the front page.
That must be exasperating."

It was rather like Rorke's paramedic was in attendance paramedic was in attendance. Drift for Dunwoody yesterday.

stolen our thunder and I don't

Association secretary who could have been expected to support him, was abroad on leave, while David Pipe, of the Jockey Club, and United Racecourses managing director. Sue Ellen, massed behind McNeile in averring that Saturday's procedures

owners. "Contrary to some reports, Richard Dunwoody was not attended by an employee of the racecourse but by an experienced paramedic who is trained within seconds of the fall and Richard Danwoody three times declined treatment." McNeile too emphasised the

speed of the reaction. "The ambulance followed 70 yards behind and they were with him within 20 seconds, so he hardly had time to spit the mud out of his teeth," the clerk of the course said. "I am surprised and rather disappointed with what Richard has said."

A contributory factor to Mc-Neile's dismay could have been that it was he who dooned the chauffeur's hat to drive Dunwoody's Saab over to Ashford Hospital. Those that believe kindness is always rewarded will be pleased to learn that he then got a lift home from a member of Durwoody's management team in a Rolls Royce.

#### L'Opera may attract tenners at 10-1

The bookmakers' ante-post lists are racing's futures market. Readers can catch up with the latest developments - best prices are in bold - in this sphere with The Independent's Tuesday service.
Champion Hurdle: Large Ac-

tion is a top-priced 6-1 with William Hill - Coral go 9-2, while Make A Stand is 10-1 (Tore) - Ladbrokes go 7-1. Sammartino is 14-1 (Tote) - Coral go 10-1 - after winning the Grade 2 Dovecote Novices' Hurdle at Kempton on Saturday.

Queen Mother Champion

Chase: Sound Man is 7-1 (William Hill) - the Tote go 5-1. Viking Flagship is generally 11-4 after his comfortable three lengths success over Arctic Kinsman - 20-1 (William Hill/Tote) - in Saturday's Emblem Chase at Kempton in which Martha's Son - 20-1 (Ladbrokes) - William Hill go 12-1 - fell at the second fence. Triumph Hurdle: Shootling Light is 7-1 (William Hill) - the Tote go 5-1 - while Commanche Court is 10-1 (Ladbrokes) - the

#### FUTURES MARKET

Tote go 7-1. L'Opera is 10-1 (Coral) - Ladbrokes go 6-1 - after beating Kerawi (who was conceding 4lb) - 10-1 (William Hill/Ladbokes) - Coral go 7-1 by 2½ lengths on his hurdling debut in the Grade 2 Adonis Hurdle at Kempton.

Cheltenham Gold Cup Chase: Dublin Flyer is 11-1 (William Hill) - Coral go 7-1. The Grey Monk is 12-1 (Tote) - generally 10-1 elsewhere - after beating Terao a length off a handicap mark of 145 in a 2m4f handicap chase at Haydock on Saturday. Suny Bay is 20-1 (Tote) - Coral go 14-1 - after beating Into The Red by 19 lengths off a handicap mark of 144 in the 3m4f Greenalls Grand National Trial Handican

Grand National Handicap Chase: Suny Bay is 16-1 (Tote)
- William Hill go 10-1. ian Davies

Home (Trainer)	Corel	Willem Hill	Ladbroken	Tota
Coller Bay U Old)	11-4	11-4	11-4	8-4
Lurge Action (O Sherwood)	9-2	64	5-1	5-1
Reflered (D Nightison)	7-1	7-1	7-1	7-1
Make A Stand (M Pipe)	8-1	9-1	7-5	10-1
Pas Supposin (K Prendergest)	7-1	10-1	9-1	10-1
Senmertino (D Nicholson)	10-1	12-1	12-1	14-1
Space Trecker (Mrs J Hanington)	10-1	10-1	9-1	9-1
Spandroom Shuffle U Gifford)	12-1	12-1	12-1	23-1
Each-way a quarter the odds, plac				

Horse (Trainer)	Coral	William Hill	Ladbrokes	Tot
Klairos Devis (A LT Moore)	5-2	9-4	9-4	5-
Viking Flegship (D Nicholson)	11,4	11-4	11-4	5-
Ask Tom (T Tate)	4-1	9-2	5-1	5.
Strong Promise (G Hubbard)	5-1	5-1	9-2	5-
Sound Man (E O'Grady)	6-1	7-1	6-1	5-
Aretic Kinsman (N Twiston-Davies)	16-1	20-1	18-1	20-
Martha's Sox (T Forster)	14-1	12-1	20-1	16-

Triumph Hurdle (2m 1f)						
Herse (Trainer)	Coral	William His	Ledbrokes	Total		
White See (M Pipe)	11-2	6-1	6-1	5-1		
Shooting Light (P.G. Murphy)	6-1	7-1	8-1	5-1		
Commanche Court (T Walsh)	8-1	8-1	10-1	7-1		
Kereni (N Twiston-Davies)	7-1	10-1	10-1	8-1		
L'Opera (O Nicholson)	10-1	8-1	6-1	7-1		
Kleg's Witness (P Nicholis)	16-1	20-1	16-1	20-1		
Oriston (C Roche)	25-1	20-1	25-1	25-1		
Disaffound (Miss H Kright)	25-1	33-1	20-1	33-1		
Par Daws (Mrs A Perratt)	25-1	25-1	33-1	25-1		
No More Heaste (Mrs M Raveley)	25-1	33-1	20-1	33-1		
Quality (P Hobbs)	25-1	33-1	25-1	25-1		
Seresus (N Henderson)	25-1	33-1	40-1	33-1		
Shahrar (D Weit)	25-1	40-1	25-1	33-1		

Horse (Trainer)	Coret	William Hill	Ladbrokes	7ot
Imperial Call (F Sutherland)	4-1	41	7-2	9-3
Coome Hill (W Dennis)	11-2	11-2	6-1	8-:
Dorana Pylde (M Houngan)	6-1	6-1	5-1	11-
Daniell (T foley)	11-2	13-2	6-1	8-
One Man (G Richards)	8-1	10-1	10-1	9-:
Dublin Flyer (T Forster)	7-1	11-1	10-1	10-
The Brey Monk (G Richards)	10-1	10-1	10-1	12-3
Addington Boy (G Richards)	12-1	14-1	14-1	24-
Mr Malligun (N Chance)	14-1	12-1	14-1	12-1
Cybongo (M Pipe)	16-1	20-1	16-1	16-1
Surry Bay (C Brooks)	14-1	16-1	16-1	20-1

Grand National Har	ndicap	Chase	(4m 4f)	
Horse (Trainedweight)	Cores W	Ham, Hill	Ludbrokes	Yorke
Coome Hill (W Donnis/10st6to)	10-1	8-1	9-1	6-1
Lord Gyllene (S Brookshaw/9st13lb)	12-1	12-1	12-1	12-1
Suny Bay (C Brooks/10st3(b)	12-1	10-1	12-1	16-1
Antonin (Mrs & Brome#9st13lb)	16-1	28-1	28-1	10-1
General Wolfe (1 Forster/ButSib)	16-1	18-1	14-1	12-1
Avro Asspo (M Camacho/10st2lb)	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1
Manual (T Forsior/10st4lb)	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1
Belmost King (P Nichols/10st1lb)	25-1	25-1	20-1	20-1
Concret Command (G Richards/Sat8tb)	25-1	25-1	20-1	_25-1
Each-way a quarter the odds, places	1, 2, 3, 4	(Airtree, l	Seturday, 5 Apr	rif)

## RACING RESULTS 3.40: 1. NIGEL'S LAD (M Foster) 2-5 fer; 2. Septembre Seviet 8-1; 3. Derk Phoentx 7-1. 14 reu. 10, 4. (P Hastern, McGdelsen). Takes 51.70; 51.10. 52.00; 51.30. 07: 58.00. CSF: 64.23. Vito: 58.50. NFC The McGdetonian. 4.10: 1. ACT THE WARG (P Camberny 7-2;

SOUTHWELL

1.28: 2. NAPOLEON STAR (S Webster) 7-1;
2. Seen Davil 9-2 for; 3. Dictation 13-2, 12 tun. 1, nd. (S 9 Boards March March 19:10-2, 12 tun. 1, nd. (S 9 Boards March March 19:10-2; 12 tun. 1, nd. (S 9 Boards March March 19:10-2; 12 tun. 1, nd. (S 9 Boards March 19:10-2; 13-

4.26: 1. BOLD ARRIVOCRUT (Flynch) 9-2; 2. Hob Mejestic 4-1 tov; 3. Tuto Stotyato 33-1. 11 ms. V., Mr. (IR Hollinshed, Upper Longston). Totas: 24.90; 52.10, 52.10, 52.10, 55.00. DF: 58.90. CSP: 520.67. Tricest: 24.91.25. Trice 51.48.60.
4.56: 1. BROUGHTON'S PRIDE (Miss Distractions) 7-2; 2. Truly Bay 11-4 for 3. Bold High 4-1. 10 rm. 1, 1%, U L Sye, Thirst). Value 54.60; 51.20, 51.30, 51.90. DF: 55.10. CSF: 51.24.9 Tricest 537.92. Trice 56.30. Placeport: 524.70. Qendpot; 58.20. Place 6: 547.55. Place 6: £18.80.

NEWCASTLE

2.10: 1. 90/IBA (D. Porter) 11-1: 2. Nicholas Plant 11-8 by, 3. Furbiddan Time 9-2. 8 ran. 7, 7. (C. Peder, Lockettle), Total: 59.90: 52.20, £1.10. DP. £7.50. CSF: £23.71.

SALES CLOSE MARCH 1ST **- (81242) 226 226 -**RACECOURSE RACING SERVICES

4.10: 1. ACT THE WAS (P Carberry 7-2; 2. Storagy Ravins 50-12; 3. Storagy Coral 5-4 fev. H rest. 2½; 10. (M Tochurter, Ukerstori), Tothe £1.80; £1.80; £1.80. DF; £57.40. CSF; £88.44.

4.40: 1. TRIBUNE (M Fosce) 11-4 fev; 2. Northern Squire 7-2; 3. Delly Boy 9-2, 9 ras., 1½, 3. (C Thornton, Middleherni, Tothe: £5.30; £2.70, £1.50, £1.90. DF; 99.60. CSF; £14.04. Tricast: £42.00. Tric: £23.10. NR: ACD.

Adib. Jackpot: Not wort; £14,760.14 carned for-ward to Catteriol today. Placepot: £22.60. Quadpot: £8.20. Place &: £38.42. Place &: £19.08.

NATIONAL HUNT

11TH - 12TH - 13TH MARCH SAVE UP TO £15 CLUB £45

FESTIVAL

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## Tate's testing time

Thursday the reason for Lo Stregone's dismal display in Saturday's Greenalls Grand National Trial at Haydock. The trainer believes a blood test will reveal the reason why the 4-5

RICHARD EDMONDSON

he's sickening for something." Tate is hopeful that Lo Stre-

Queen Mother Champion Chase contender, Ask Tom, favourite trailed in a well-beaten last of five.

That said yesterday; "I will do blood-tests on Thintsday and that will tell me. He seems OK, he's far away from Lo Stregone's. It's like any office and hurst do go

Tom Tate hopes to discover on the other way this time. The connections feel miffed about Saturday but Lo Stregone himself has still got four legs, a head and a tail." Tate is concerned that his

eaten up and looks bright like an office and bugs do go enough but I have a suspicion round, although they have different levels of severity on different horses. I'm very much gone will recover in time to tack-le the Grand National, which he at Cheltenham and we would be missed last year due to flu. He very unlucky if he were to catch added: "Maybe our luck will go something just beforehand."

Assistante With East **FESTIVAL FOCUS** 

2.40 DRAGON HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 3m Penulty Value £3,316

CAMFORMS PRATER would have heled the trending ground at Newton Abbotton his tempocamon, this initial win was on. In feat surface when he turned over hotpot butlesten at Wordstor last appearand he rounded off the compalign with a good performance to bear Highway Five in a nowless transleap at Heirbford. Simpson won a moderanezoe of Follestone on a return from a beyoff and to worth opposing. Famous Glam, a winner over huntle, and femole in lend, hight just meed more testing conditions, but a run over femole of week ago Gorger trip today) after two leadle attempts will have put him in top condition. Far Senter Sentot be orderanted, but Ladesbeer Lad has a squeek. Sentember CANFORIS FRATE.

3.10 SYSTON HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £2,906

POPUL BRIDE:

LANCE ARRESTROWS tooks in a different league after a crocking functes run egainst King. Pin and Papertaing at Ayr. That was his third run over functes this same, but chasing is much more bits game as he showed less team with what born Baily Clover as Windocrand Cheleses Nether at Plumpton. Jaillereafter has won here twice. However, he is not the furce of old and may be stretched to incove on his eight-length fourth to Rustic Air in this race less year even though he races of a 24th tower rating. Jaillet Jaillet Jaillet Air in this race less year even though he races of a 24th tower rating. Jaillet Jaillet Jaillet Air from the front the first this race in a reason of a 24th tower rating. Jaillet Jaillet Air when he folded up from the recent last. This mare had some sound hurdies from in lettend and is the one Lance Armstrong has to catch. It may be too only to suggest that Little-Nepser has retained the same ability se when with Devid Nicholson.

Selection: LANCE ARMSTRONG

1900; Rustic Air 9 10 7 M Dwyer 2-1 (I FitzBaroks) Sr an

Everything class hears in the first on a critical he's a completely different house."

After winning Arc. and of three Patronal Three this acculant three response of the patronal all three contings the character this textual and three brighted the patronal and three brighted at 1860.

BEAR GLAW is a top performer on his day and from a stable that can produce them fresh and well. Bear Claw would like the ground softer, but he has the clear beating of these duels on his Chelsenharn hundles success from Pleasure Shared at 23 others in the EBF Final of two years age. Raced just the once last season (chesing debut at Womestell when he suffered a nasty injury, Bear Claw is reportedly back in top condition and the 6th he gets from Lively Reight is a real borus. Lively Kright has been beaten three threes since his half-length win from Mistar Drum at Huntingdon. He made a couple of mistakes at Cheltenham lest three finied to The Mine Ceptain) and this step up in distance looks bound to solt last season's Asoch hundles winner. Who is Equipment has wen just the once from sumerous starts and is now raised in distance. He did run a bit better against fled Staffboy at Ultroster after finishing tailed off on his respectance, but he's not for me with Bear Claw in the race. Master Teby would probably have won on his chasing debut at Chepstow last May but for unisearing Carl Liewellyn four out. He could be a shade risky on this respectance, as might the ex-hist pointer Feedrace has the others is dust winning pointer Beatter Future, who was highly tried against Cyborgo et Chepstow ten days ago.

4.10 GREAT GLEN NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 2m 4f 110yds Ponalty Value £3,125 5-USF11 MACRIBORGE (LA) (CD) (J H Western) 9 Lee 7 12 0

1F3-333, WILD WEST WHOD (SZ) (Loud Vester) Mees H Knight 7 11 8

COOCH DEEP SONG (708) (Mrs E M Western) 9 Patchard 7 11 2

OOCH DEEP SONG (708) (Mrs E M Western) P Patchard 7 11 2

PO-61/36 GERMON'S WAGER (20) (& Mrs Barry Morles) Mark Campion 7 10 11

- 5 declared

- 5 declared -hETTME: 4-6 Macglough, 11-6 Wild West Wood, 10-1 Craighti, 33-1 Deep Song, General's Wager 25-1 General's Wager, 56-1 Deep Song 1990: Joher The Kibber 7 11 8 R Fahret 10-11 (Mrs J Planer) 11 pm

WILD WEST WIND should not be underestimated and this Strong Gale golding might pull if off after groting his act together over fences at Unouser last time. He beet feet The Power and Him Of Praise in Area style after focups at the thirthight and Center, and now looks worth stoying with. A dust winner over hurdles, wild West Wind might also have won a decent race at Kempton in between but for failing two out when challenging Call Equipmen. Blandparegies has bounced back in great style with wins at Wetherby and on this course since his unbudy run at Bangor when a failer when challenging Around The Gale at the fifth last, he jumped great over these fences to best Salor Jin 18 tensities and the Wetherby from hea been boosted by the two-length second, Random Harvest. However, Greightill won a maiden high point in 1994 after failing to complete in two previous starts. Hots fleely to find this a bit too hot, a remark which stao applies to the other pair.

Selection: WILD WEST WIND

[	4.40	OAKHAM HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 adde 2m 1f Penalty Value £2,934
1	31212P	SCOTTESH BANGE (40) (William ) Kelly P Webber 9 12 0 Only page 1
2	15-2242	DEAR DO (22) (NF) (C.) Edwards) N Henderson 10 11 12
. 3	114-0FF	CHUNCHTOWN PORT (10) (John Pischett) P Butler 7 11 8
4		CAMARIRA BOY (LB) (Mrs Margaret Noryon Holded) C James 8 11 2 Mr E James
5	2/4P3-04	CHELL WHEN (1A) (E H Daley) N Bycook 8 10 10M Falls
8	352352	DR ROCKET (15) (The Rocksteers) R Dickin 12 105 X Alexand (7) 6
7	3P-0105	PERMANENE (USA) (15) (Mrs Ann Whodrow) Mrs A Whodrow 14 10 0
8	340-391	THAUS THE LIFE (16) (0) (Sile-out Recing Pertrenship) T George 12 10 0

- 8 declared -SETTING: 3-1 Thats The Life, 4-1 Chill Word, 5-1 Dr Recket, 11-2 Deer De, 6-1 Section Bound, 7-1

FORM GUIDE

CHILL WIND comes here after a promising fourth to Sheriffinair over hundles on the course a fornight ego. He has chasing form and looks the one they all have to beat on his third to Stormy Coral at Carlisle on his final start of lest season. Whata The Eille returned to form at Hereford a fornight sign when he overcame mistakes at the final two fances to bear Dr Roeke et just over three lengths. Linsuladed by the testing ground at Newton Abbott beforeherd. Thats The Life meets Dr Rocket on only 2th worse terms today. Boottlek Beamid pulled muscles hast time and has claims with Jamie Osborne booked. He beat that attempt of meets in the lower at Hereford in November and Cheryfs Lud at Ludiow the following month so is in with a shout provided the ground doesn't do no soft. Deer De who his share of mees in the lower grade, but he couldn't hold Shread John at Fontsell lest time, while Cavanina Boy a hurdles winner here, may lock the experience to beat those after his cheeling debut at Rangor 15 days ago.

Selection: CHILL WIND

4.20 GRETA BRIDGE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,075 added 2m

393342 NEWHALL PRINCE [74] (60) A Streeter 5 12 0 \_\_\_\_\_\_ 7 Bay V 241211 WEAVER GEORGE (12) (4) (5) W Story 7 11 6 \_\_ Mt Miclowy

Minimum weight: 10st. True handloop weights: Madinghoot 9st 6th, Moss Pageant

HETTON: 7-4 Jack Doyle, 15-8 Wester George, 9-2 Robel King, 8-1 Northall Prince, 22-1 Marlingfort, 48-1 West Pageaux

4.50 AYSQARTH INTERMEDIATE NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,500 added 2m

086 AR BROWE (R1) 9 Whiteler 511.4\_\_\_\_E Huntond (5)

225 FROST (MAT) (MT) (Quinn 5 11 4 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ B Tenney 00 \_ENGINES PROSPRET (TS) J O'Nell 8 11 4 \_\_\_\_\_ B Medicals (R) .00 \_ENGINES SHOOK (TS) J H Johnson 5 11 4 \_\_\_\_\_ B F Ryen (S)

POOF PF MOSS PAGEANT (22) F Water 7 10 0... - 5 declared -

ļ		
	2.10 RED BRANCH (neg)	TYPERION 3.40 Boar Claw
	2.40 Resport Rock 3.10 Juliet Johns	4.18 Mangeorge 4.46 Thats The Life (nb)
	GOING: Good (very soft in front of a lifely land, undulating course. But P. Course is 2m SE of city of A6. Leic 2n. ADMINSTON: L9 (OAPs £5). Pro-	taindis).

III TEADUNG TEAUNERS WITH EXPERIENCE D Michelson — 14 winters from 50 run-ners gives a success seeks of 38.3% and a profit to a 51 level stake of 5144.72; N Hea-derson — 7 winters, 21 runfells, 33.3%, +515.41; N Twiston-Davies — 7 winters, 30 rs, 28.3%, -54.66; Mrs J Pinness — 7 wherens, 68 remners, 13.2%, -420.97. IMPORTAGE AND STATE A Magning — 18 winners, 70 rider, 18.5%, -228.42; R Dunwoody — 16 winners, 50 rider, 20%, -228.62; M A Pringerald — 8 winners, 51 rider, 17.0%, -513.22; W Materion — 9 winners, 65 rides, 13.8%, +53.21.

BLINKREED FIRST THEE: Master Hist. (3.40).

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: None.

LONG-DISTANCE MINORISE: Faring Glion (2.40) has been sent 193 miles by J.I O'Nell from Skelton Wood Rad: Combein; Jaffinicaber (3.10) sent 183 miles by S.R. Millman

	MI BEIN	and the second s	
	210	PICKWILL MÖVICE WANGICAP CHASE (CLASS added 2m of \$10 do Penalty Value £3,316	E) £4,200
1 1	3541-12	acondinate hits of the Persons J 680-d 7 11 10.	
23	F/50332	SUPER WINCOMET (8) (The Quickey Associated) 8 Palling 8 10 13	X Passan
E [	P0F-556	GERMAN (18) DEC 8 Machandel A Threef 6 10 8	C Dates
4		SERLOGY (File (18)) (Compactors) K Burks 10 10 8	
5		BARRACK BOOKE (13) (47 CWord) D Marines 10 10 1	
lä		Makes of the Composition of the	
7	U/OP2U	HAND MANAGER (123) (E.J. Maringara) J. Hing 8 10 8	
18	333333	HETERIA (12) (R Protion) Mas 5 Smith 7 10 0	R Williamon (7)
8	POO-PP5	ALTERNAT AND CONT (14) & Doyol & Doyol 7 10 0.	
10	2/P/6PO	1000 7500 PTO (27) 04 Directory K Busher 8 10 0	S Pox I
11	00506	pineo Cremital Creital (7) (Difan Rodwell) 8 Rodwell 8 100	Total
12	POOP	PRINCE BALTHARR (22) (6) J. History N Byoroft 6 10 0	A Scholes (7)
13	6/Q/OBF	SHANT CHRONON (82) (C.) Covego) M Willerson 8:30-0	TJ 07+E
3		- 11 declared -	

Minkruen weight; 10st. True handlings weightet Red brench St. 12th, Niturie Set Sth, Althrey Additional Set 30, Allhi Fiste Set Sth, Minchreigh Cross Set Sth, Palnor Baltariar Set Sth, Simer Casanova Set Sth. METTRUE; 8-4 Secretional, 30-4 Imper Minister, 7-2 Red Brench, 7-1 Glandon, 8-1 Villadia, 18-1 Hung-over, 12-1 Baltary, 18-5 Select Convention, 30-1 offers. 1998: Emission Roar 10 10 0 8 Wynns 18-1 (T Fountry 16 sen

This is between SCOMMENIALY and Super Ritsheart. Leicester has been a hoppy hus ground for Super Ritsheart. Leicester has been a hoppy hus ground for Super Ritsheart. Leicester has been a hoppy hus ground for Super Ritsheart would not his name and back in good after last weeks social to warm favourist Cardinal Rule at Hardford. Had the ground I soft today, so it was at Pereford, Super Ritchest would have been the selection getting; from Scoresheat, But Scoresheat, and years younger and the type to progress, is given you after thoding a big weight donotestion, plus soft ground, too much when second to price May at Lingfield last time. Scoresheat had earlier besten Recethoch of Follestone a provided the monitoral showers are not fon beaut. Inch Citiwals showers with husers. prime way at ungerer less time. Scoresnest had earlier besten Receibloth et Follestone provided the promised showers are not too heavy, Josh Gifford's charge will have his gir to add to his soons, fixed Bleaset in a possible improver on his Warefulk second to Dr Ride and he went to Sendown (unwested) next time. Hangever is never one for me and retriginder are also hard to Yancy.

# 3.40 RUTLAND WATER NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3mi Penalty Value £4,208 02-1253 LIMELY HORONT (21) (A O Woles) J 6Mord 8 11 4

2.20

			404) (CJ Hillians) 404) (H108CJ H100G LIS			R Jok
	` 1 .	ELEGATION A	MEDRY OR C F Falors (	Micholano 8 10 1	7	
	5 UPOPS		(F) (Rob Bratlet) 9 Le			
unding			CLED GAS & CLIST N			
form			(2000) (R D Russell) 1		10 12	C Line
been	8 PSPP3	MUNICAL HIT	CAR (Nas E M Whento	n P Princhard 6 10	12.	R Defe
(11b)			II (26) Cyonshell Reci			V Sie
in the	10 PPO	- STRONG GLES	(487) (P Wagnam)	P Westrenn 9 10	12	S W)
D So-			(24) Odise 8W Palme			
and,			WANTE (17) (Lynn Willso		10 12	سعا و لــ
round	13 PO	C DENE MAN D	S) (At E Someraby) M.			F Look;
HOUSE.				ociered –		
			Day Halle, 3-116	ster Baby, 6-1.7cm	pends Velley, 7-1 W	no la Espain
nd the		Poten, 20-1 of				
HEET	· 1996: CHE	Karger 7 10 12 C	Liewellyn 15-2 (NTW	(6100-Davides) 15 i	an .	
•						
MENS	LEY NOV	CE HANDI	CAP HURDLE	A 44	RIPON SEL	LING I
		5 added m		3.20	(CLASS G) £	
	MI (20) (3) JE	erry 5 12 0		1 463104	BODGERA (17) (D)	J Quitm 61

1.50 Pull Thruttie 2.20 Passent Lodge 2.50 Priendly Knight 3.20 Silver Minx 3.50 Retucking 4.20 Weaver George 4.40 First (4.54)

2.50 MALTON NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,075 512153 Years THLLS (25) (C) G M Moore 6 12 0...... O-STT30 MEDS LAMPLICANT (14) Flikutagh 7:10:11.

### Transfer Proof Reberty Lon, 3-1 Cool Lain, 7-2 Yeln Fells, 10-1 Friendly Knight, 13-2 Wilhely Roy, 33-1 Miss Lampight, 50-1 Deady Doc Plants

1 463104 MCMINERA (17) (D) J Quim 6 12 0 R McGrath (5)
2 5135-P GURGURIK THE RESISE, (DB) (D) 5 Cark 5 11 13 R Gardity
3 51560- SERVINE MINER (12) Me hi Heading 5 11 2
4 073506 PAST MARTIER (12) (14) 8 62/mgs 6 11 1 R Williamson
5 77-4655 CHAMBEY S Mahi, (20) 1 Lungh 7 10 11 R Shapte 6
6 03127 MCSEPTA (22) (21) C Town 8 10 8 Michael Meanne (3)
6 500500 COOL STEEL (17) D 9 Town 5 10 8 Michael Meanne (3)
8 0-34236 TROUBE (25) C Resis 7 10 4 D P Carbony
10 00503-0 MOSARO MING (22) Mis M Herstel 6 10 2 Mer M Herstel
10 00503-0 MOSARO MING (22) Mis M Herstel 6 10 2 Mer M Herstel
11 014753 AMTHAR MER (23) 8 D 500610 10 D R Sheep
12 404-DP STURMING 1000A (25) W McMichael 7 10 0 R Gubble
13 0-70000 THIOMAS NOPE (17) E Calm 8 10 0 Mer Medica (7)
-13 declared -Affaithm neight: 10st. The hardisp region 1 form's Hope Set 48.

ETTING: 7-2 Chammy's Sage, 4-1 Short tilm, 8-1 Relearn, 6-1 Tiol
7-1 Riverbarn, 18-1 Coal Stoot, 13-1 Arthur Nos, 14-1 Post Rivotor, 1

Bandisk The Robot, 20-1 Birtheleon, 39-1 Storming Lorus, 40-4 other 3.50 SARTON NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,925 added 3m 1f 110yds 

STAT OF STEEL 7 his 4 108 \_\_\_\_ - 23 decised -BETTENS: 5-2 The Geome, 3-1 Thursdepoint, 4-1 Decise's Gold, 5-1 Plant

Light, 10-1 Spirit Of Steel, 14-1 Josefu's Prospect, Nr Bridge, 25-1 Deck On By, 25-1 Shorage Shoop, 23-1 others

7		,,		<u> </u>
 			٠	
2.00	MARCO (CLASS	POLO F) £3,3	APPREN 00 added	IR 4

6:10-001. GREATERST (12); (CD) Mine Cey Voltowy 8:8 4 \_\_D Thelined 5:8 10:00430 Aprilled Resulters (10) (C) M Survives 6:8:10 \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Survives 1: 133-320 4004 MEDISTE (21) (C DF) T.) Naughton 5:8:10 \_\_\_\_\_ 5 Survives 8: 0-43031. LIFT NOT (DER) (10) (CD) 9:1 Moon 6:8:8. \_\_Comby Mooth 4:0306-40 - LA MOONSTE (7):8 Dow 4:8:3. \_\_\_\_\_ A Doby (0):8

3.30 LIVINGSTONE HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,900 added 3YO 1m 

2 000430 Aprilla Nepublic (cit) (5) M Sauriors 58 10 ... Samina 3
133-230 MM SECRET (20) (5) P. Maybro 58 10 ... Samina 3
1 0-3031. LFT Net/ (DRI) (10) (CE) 9 I. Moon 68 8 ... Carely Morth 4
2 000004 CLASE (NE) (5) D Clasers 68 12 ... D Holland 4
3 546504 DELPH CALL (F) P. D Earn 88 12 ... D Holland 4
3 546504 DELPH CALL (F) P. D Earn 88 12 ... Letter Ling 8
100000 MM SECRET (ALL (F) P. D Earn 88 12 ... Letter Ling 8
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GOING: Good (Good to Sife in piaces).

Left-hand course, worksting and sharp, fam-in 240yds.

Left-hand course is NW of town on A6126. Darlington seation 14m. ADMESSGON: Club El 1; Tatacamilis 2; Course 52.60 (under 16s free
loss of enclosures). CAR PARE: Buserved seen £2, remainder Free. MINIMENTO 187 THE None. WHINEED IN LAST 7 RATE None.
LONG-DISTANCE BUNGINGS: Billion's Gold (1.60) has been sent 236 miles by C Reston from Chaddleworth, Berler, Quinne (2.20) sent 256 miles by K.Rudey from Coper Lambourn, Berler. 1.50 MEDIA SHARIT NOVINE HUNDLE (CLASS E)

2.00 Souteme 2.30 La Modute 3.00 Steller Line 3.30 Top Shelf 4.90 Zahld 4.30 Forgotten Times

GORGE Standard, STALLER: im — conside; rest — inside.

DEAW ADVANTAGE: Low numbers best over 51 and 62.

Equitasek surface; left-hand, sharp unchilating course.

Course is SE of town on BEOSE, Lingfield station adjoins course.

ADMINISTRATE: Cash ES; remainder free. 5.00 Life Pode

The Bend, 9-2 America, 7-2 in The Bend, 9-2 America, 28-1, Ricer Protego

2.30 COLUMBUS CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F)

3.00 DI SA,900 added 1m 2f

– 8 declared – SETTRIG: 11-8 Studier Line, 8-4 Effectual, 9-2 Scende Legisl, 36-1 Serape,

4.00 COOK LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) (DIV I)

4.30 WALTER RALEIGH HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added files of 

5.00 COOK LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) (DIV II) £2,800 added im 2f

223.71.
2.40: 1. LATIN LEADER (D Perior) 8-1;
2. In A Mounant 5-1; 3. Obvious Rink 15-1;
4. Polince Of Opid 4-1 fav. 25 fan. 3, 5, 10. Perior; Lociachio). Teles 58.70; 54.30;
51.20. 52.40, 52.00. DF. 225.50. CSF: 235.50. Those: 5439.70, True: 596.20.
3.10: 1. INTRIPUTER SHADE (P News) 11-1;
2. Catonasi in Chief 1-2 far; 3. Summont 25-1. 7 can. 9, 18. (Mar M Receive, Sattural, False: 59.70; 54.20, £1.10. DF: £4.50. CSF: £17.40.

BLUMENEED FIRST THEE, None.
WITCHES IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Sociema (2.00) won here WINGERS IN THE LAST SYSTEM (8.30) has been sent 270 LONG-DESTAINCE HEINNEES: Presider (8.30) has been sent 270 LONG-DESTAINCE HEINNEES: Presider (8.30) has been sent 270 miles by M Johnston from Mindelson, N Yorks; Hemeyhall (4.30) sent 250 miles by D Chapman from Stillington, N Yorks; Historia 180,00) sent 262 miles by N Techter from Langton, N Yorks; Stringers (8.00) sent 263 miles by sin L Stokker spo (8.00) 4 Mindels Historia (4.00) sent 236 miles by sin L Stokker from Wartiell, N Yorks; Este Presider (8.00) sent 230 miles by Mas J Capar from Evengenn, N Yorks.

# Cotton has caused nothing but trouble: not only the unseemly spat with De Glanville but also the undignified squabble with Will Carling

It is always gratifying to have your views - or your prejudices - confirmed by people who are directly involved. This is my happy experience over Fran Cotton's announcement of his preliminary party of 62 Lions. I make no apology for

returning to the subject this week. There was Jonathan Davies, writing in the Independent on Sunday two days ago. He seemed to be genuinely distressed by his exclusion. It does not require any great feat of the imagination to see why. As I wrote a week ago and as he confirmed on Sunday, to pla for the Lions was his one remaining ambition. Threequarters of the way through the season and balf-way through the Five Nations' Champiooship, he bas

the voyage. If we are to believe Cotton and his fellow selectors, Ian McGeechan and Jim Telfer, Davies ranks behind (in alphabetical order) Mike Catt, Craig Chalmers, Paul Grayson, David Humphreys and Gregor Townsend. If we are to believe Kevin Bowring, he also ranks behind Arwel Thomas, who likewise is not among Cotton's chosen five. This leaves us with the conclusion that. according to those set in authority over us in rugby matters, Davies is currently the seventh best outsidehalf in the British Isles. Which, as old Euclid used to say, is absurd. But I do not want to turn this column into the Jonathan Davies Show.

been told he will not be wanted on I come to the evidence of Gregor Townsend and Jonathan Bell on

> In the past I have not always been kind to this programme, partly because of its silly gimmicks, promi-nent among them being the practice of its presenter, John Inverdale, of wearing jerseys to which he is not, as far as I know, entitled. Despite this deplorable habit, he remains a very good interviewer, with the knack of extracting from players or administrators comments they would not normally make.

> Thus Peter Winterbottom is usually tacitum and - shall we say? - a little on the surly side. Dean Richards is rather more civil but still a man of few words. Yet a couple of



weeks ago Inverdale managed to get them both to say (quite independently, as far as I could tell) that as England No 8 they would prefer Ben Clarke to Tim Rodber. Whether they have changed their view after

point is that they spoke frankly. Last Sunday, similarly, Townsend and Bell spoke frankly about the announcement of the Lions party. Unlike Davies and Phil de Glanville, they cannot be accused of sour grapes, for they are both in the squad. Townsend said he had other things on his mind till the end of the season. Bell confirmed this feeling.

Altogether, Cotton has caused nothing but trouble: not only flie un-seemly spat with De Glanville about his exclusion but also the undignified squabble with Will Carling, Cotton having claimed that Carling would have made himself available had he been guaranteed the captaincy.

One might have thought that his:

consequence: that is, depriving its of the opportunity to play the miley that traditional evening game of picking the Lions. But not a bit of it. On the contrary: the naming of the bleated 62 provides the opportunity to spec-ulate on which of them will peach the final 35 and, of these, which 15 will form the Test side. Even more of joyably, it provides the opportunity to heap curses on the hands of Cotton and his colleagues for not in-cluding our favouries in the spead already announced. It is all makes ally, because the Five Nations season is only half-way through, and matters

land I do not know. No matter. The lamentable announcement would my selection, based neither on abhave had yet another unfortunate solute merit, nor on what I expect Cotton and friends to do, but on form so far in the championship: I Startes J Sleightholme, A Bateman, S Girle. T Underwood: P Grayson, R Hoa. ley; G Rowntree, M Regan. Leonard, M. Johnson, S. Shaw, D.

Corkery, S Quinnell, C Charves.
Of these, Skeightholms, Underwood and Charves are not even in
Cotton's 62. Nor, of course, is Jonathan Davies, I cannot pick him - not because I do not want to. which I do, but because he has performed so far only as a Welsh substitute. He therefore falls outside my self-imposed rerms of reference. may look entirely different in a And this is as much a criticism of

Mitchell lies

in wait for

Harlequins

# Logan to reap rich harvest

Bill Leith talks to the Scotland rugby union winger who will soon be facing some tough decisions about his future



who is expected to win a 29th Scotland can at Murravfield this weekend, will stand apart from the rest of his colleagues against

Not in the way that left the former Instonians and Ulster winger Keith Crossan entitled to feel awkward during the Irish anthem before the Scotland visit to Dublin in 1982 when the rest of the Irish team hailed from south of the border. Or because Logan is unique in having an ex-Lions captain Gavin Hastings, now a sports marketing agent, look after his interests.

Rather it is because only Logan, of the likely Scottish starting line-up due to be named today, has yet to sign a contract with the Scottish Rugby Union. Around £50,000 a year is his for the taking were be to remain in Scotland, but he insists: "The reason I haven't signed is because my brother and I split up our farm and it is going to take three to four months to sort things out. There would be days when I couldn't train because of work on the farm. I'm not going to do anything until

I get that sorted out." The situation means that Logan is effectively responsible for — his own mind and there is no — club's coach, Rob Cunningba training on his own except during weeks culminating in internationals. During this period, a temporary agreement applies as with Duncan Hodge, the Watsonian stand-off who is expected to sit on the Scotland bench

for the first time on Saturday. Hodge recently turned down the chance to move to Northern Transvaal, whom he lmpressed during last year's Student World Cup, a future op-tion that would be denied him were he to sign with the SRU. While the home-based players report to Murrayfield daily and the Exiles head up to Murrayfield every other Wednesday to enjoy it."

train, the 24 year-old Logan re-lies on solo sessions at a Stirling botel gymnasium to keep in shape, as well as club work-outs.

It is hardly an ideal arrange-meot, although Logan has still managed to become one of only nine Scottisb players meriting inclusion in a provisional Lions squad of 62. Nor was there anything in his performance against England last time out to suggest the solo regimes were having a detrimental effect on his form.

Going into that match, however, the SRU's contract negotiator, Kenny Crichton, had claimed "strength of personal-ity" would enable Logan to do himself justice. In other words, Logan possesses an inner confidence which is rarely, if ever,

'Some guys could be happy staying up here, but England is a big challenge'

question his ambition is suffering down on the farm. Saracens ham said: "Hopefully a deal can have been linked with the for- be done and sooner rather than mer trialist goalkeeper with Heart of Midlothian, who says of a possible move to England:
"If you are ambitious, England is the place to go. Some guys could be happy staying up in Scotland, but England is a big

"Scotland is a great place to live and down there would be different, but the rugby would be different too. I've had offers. I'm very ambitious. I would hate to look back on my career and say I didn't try it - even if I didn't

Should Logan fail to make the final Lions squad, another option could beckon - Ameri-can football, Mike Keller, general manager of the Scottish Claymores, has had Logan in his sights for some time and said recently: "Kenny could be a running back, which is one of the glamour positions.

"OJ Simpson was a great running back and sometimes with all his recent problems you bate to even mention his name, but OJ became a glamour Hollywood idol - and it all stemmed from being a great running

"I understand that because of Kenny's desire to be at home and run his farm, he has bad some negotiation difficulties. This may open the door for the Claymores. We would bave to see bow Kenny catches an American football. But with his speed, toughness and ability to change direction I see possibilities." The Lions are due to name their squad a fortnight before the Claymores season be-gins in April, and Keller added: "We would be flexible."

Logan has been quick to shoot down speculation about a change of sport, but less forthcoming about Saracens' approaches con-Without doubt, Logan knows ducted initially between the and Gavin Hastings. Cunninglater." By resisting any tempta-tion to sign an SRU contract, Logan may indeed be about to reap a rich harvest. Damian Cronin, the Wasps

lock, has been brought into the Scotland squad in place of the njured Shane Munro for the Five Nations match against Ireland on Saturday. Munro, one of three locks in the squad, has a knee problem. His withdrawal settles the selection issue for the Scotland second row, in which Doddie Weir and Andy Reed will be the lock combination.



If you can't beat 'em, at least of Mitchell as player-coach is make their lives as difficult as beginning to look more possible. Phil de Glanville may not be in a position to lay a hand on the Pilkington Cup this season, but if Harlequins, Leicester or both slip up at the semi-final stage on 29 March, they will see the England captain's incriminating fingerprints all over the scene of the

crime.
De Glanville has not had a great deal tollargicabout since
being ignored by the Lions selectors last week, but he could

Best, who was one of the
tourists coaches that day.

"I suppose the capacity of our barely conceal a mischievous chnckle yesterday. Asked to make the draw for the last four of the knock-out competition, he promptly pulled the rug from under his greatest club rivals by sending Quins to Sale and Leicester to Gloucester. Hell bath no fury like a Bath captain scorned, especially when it comes to Pilkington business.

Leicester, who fairly blasted De Glanville's team out of the competition in the sixth round, can be sure of the most physithan the one they faced at Newcastle on Saturday, even though Gloucester have no intention of asking Dean Ryan to guest for them on a one-off basis. "It will

But the real fun is likely to occur at Heywood Road, where Quius will play their eighth semi-final in 10 years in front of 5,000 Cheshire supporters sardined into one of the the Courage League's more ram-shackle grounds. "I don't think Ours will fancy that at all," said De Glanville with a rare degree of relish. "If I were a betting man, I'd have a dabble on Sale." Quins have already lost to Sale both home and away this season and with John Mitchell, the shrewdly analytical former All Black, now firmly estab-lished in the northerners' back

row, the Londoners will be

more wary than ever. Sale have not lost a match since mid-October and their appointment

inspired by the week.
"It will be a great honour to be involved in a semi-final in the North-west, where the occasioo should do wonders for the profile of rugby in the area." said Mitchell, who lcd Waikato to a famous victory over the Lions in 1993 and now renews his battle of wits with Quins' rugby director. Dick のでは、一般の一般を表現の

ground might be a little small for a match of this magnitude. so we'll explore the option of hosting it elsewhere. Old Traf-ford, which is just up the road. would be wonderful. But then, the players love their own ground and see it as an advantage. Whatever happens, it will be a tough match for both

Leicester, who have matched their own record by reaching a sixth consecutive cup semi-final, are ungenerously priced cal of welcomes at Kingsholm: favourites at 13-8 on. Sale's far more intimidating, indeed, emergence as a real force in the English game, not to mention their home draw, is reflected by their odds of 7-2, the same as those of Ouins, Gloucester, the first English knock-out chamoutsiders.

In Wales, Neath and Swansea were thrown together in a potentially outstanding Swaled Cup quarter-final tie. Their great west Wales rivals, Llanelli, should have an easier time of it against Pontypool at Stradey Park while Cardiff can expect to defeat South Wales Police at a canter. Ebbw Vale face cither Bridgend or Treorchy in the remaining match. PILKINGTON CUP Semi-final draw: Sale

v Harlaquins; Gloucester v Leicester (Ties to be played Saturday 29 March). SWALEC CUP Quarter-final drams Ethin Vale v Treority or Bridgend; Cardiff v South Vales Police; Neath v Swansea; Llarelli v Ponty-pool (Ties to be played Saturday 22 March).

#### Van Dijk puts Hampstead on a high

**Hockey** BILL COLWILL

Hampstead and Westminster became the first Regional League team to claim their place in the National League play-offs following a resounding 6-1 victory against their oearest challengers, Anchorians.

The Dutch striker Jan-Job van Dijk scored four times with Mark Crowley's two taking his season's total to 26. Anchorians' consolation came from Neil Gordon. The Kent side, still eight points ahead of thirdplaced Tumbridge Wells, must be favourites to take the second play-off slot from the Nastro Azzurro South League.

In the North, Norton, 3-1 winners at Ben Rhydding, have all but reached the play-offs. In the other regions there is much to play for. In the East, Adnam League Chelmsford edged nearer Cambridge City as City were held to a 2-2 draw by Ipswich. Chelmsford, with Rob Hawkins and Pat Oxley both scoring twice, thrashed Sudbury 6-2 to keep their hopes alive. They play City in their final

In the DTZ Midland Premier, Loughborough Students bad a narrow 1-0 win against Olton and West Warwick while Harborne kept up the pressure with a resounding 12-1 win at Bloxwich and trail by three points. The teams meet on Saturday in their penultimate

# Europe's Socceroos say G'day to Venables

Running man: Kenny Logan in training with the Scotland squad

**Clive White** visits the Ealing set of an ex-England coach's latest adventure

It was all purely coincidental, of course, but the Aussies did seem to be rubbing the Poms' noses in it again yesterday. OK, so they have "stoleo" our national coach, but did they really have to remind us of the fact by holding their first European training camp for Terry Venables' Socceroos on Wembley's doorstep? And as for arriving

for yesterday's session in the official England team hus, well... They had not taken too kindly to being described as a pub cam at the weekend and Dave Hill, the chairman of Soccer Australia, was in the mood to throw down the gauntlet to England -"any time, anywhere."

fancy of the cheeky chappy, too, but that was for the future, perbaps next spring by which time he hopes to have successfully led Australia through the qualifying programme to the World

Cup finals in France. After the events at Wembley the other week, who is to say he has not backed the right borse. Tahiti and the Solomon Islands certainly look rather less formidable opposition than Italy and Poland, even if there are a couple of play-offs to follow af-ter that hefore they could celebrate reaching their first fi-

nals since 1974. Having led the Australianbased players to victory in a fournation tournament involving Norway, South Korea and New Zealand last month, this was Venables' first get-together with those Australians who play in Europe. It was an indication of

The idea clearly tickled the just how enthusiastically his ap-ncy of the cheeky chappy, too, pointment has been received by them, if not necessarily everyone back home, that 29 players made it to London for this three-day camp, including some who are too injured to take part.

The one notable absentee is Paul

Fair dinkum duo: Terry Venables, Australia's new coach, (right) and Mark Bosnich yesterday Photograph: Robert Hallam

is undergoing an exploratory knee operation. working with players. Not surprisingly, his sudden change of allegiance caused a bit of conbitterly cold and blustery on the playing fields of the Barclays Bank Sports Ground in Ealing, but Venables was in his element,



Okon, the Lazio sweeper, who back doing what be does best: whom be believes could be fusion at times, the players never too sure which "we" he was referring to. "Yes, you might say

Photograph: Empics

there was a lot of 'we'-ing going on there today," Venables said. He rejected the suggestion that he was working with vast-ly inferior material to that which he had in his hands just seven mooths ago. The quality of the players had impressed him. He reckoned he had an even bigger pool to choose from than. say, Wales or Northern Ireland and has likened Anstralia's standing to that of Hungary, whom they will play in a friend-ly in Budapest on 2 April. "People will be surprised how good the team is that we eventually come up with," he said, singling out such lesser names as Mark back in Wagga Wagga would Viduka, a striker from Zagreb have made of the pink bibs.

more than a bit special. Of his own high-profile, highly paid appointment, he said: "I believe good coaching makes a big difference. I think the coach

can make or break a team. They have always recognised that in American sport and now places like Italy are realising how important the coach is and are starting to pay them big money." Venables, for one, is being rewarded rather better than he was with the Football Association. But wasn't there just a tinge of regret at leaving his job

soever," be replied. "If the circumstances were repeated I'd do the same again. The skill factor looked extraordinary high at yesterday's session in difficult conditions, but I'm not sure what the boys

as England coach? "None what-

#### **Devils take** long road to success

ice hockey

The new Superleague champ-ions, Cardiff Devils, will start and finish their quest for a triumphant end to their cam-

paign with away matches... The league yesterday fi-natised the play-off fixtures for the remaining three weeks of the season, with Cardiff drawn in Group A alongside Ayr Scottish Eagles, Newcastle Cobras and Manchester Storm.

Cardiff start the six-game programme with a Group A trip to Newcastle on Saturday and eod with a trip to Manchester's Nynex Arena on Thursday 13 March. On Sunday the Nynex attracted a record high crowd for a British ice bockey match - 17,245 - as the hosts, Manchester Storm, defeated last year's Grand Slam winners, Sheffield Steelers. It will stage the semi-finals and finals - re-

# Lloyd to keep Hussain as captain if Atherton fails to recover

Cricket

MARK BALDWIN reports from Napier

England are awaiting a verdict on the fitness of their captain, Mike Atherton, as they rest in preparation for tomorrow's

third one-day international against New Zealand here. team the one-day series 3-0, pulled out of the Auckland fielding - we are becoming an with two games still to play.

Atherton will be allowed until the morning of the day-night contest before a final decision on his fitness is made.

If Atherton does not make it, England's coach, David Lloyd, will be more than happy for the leadership to remain in the capable hands of Nasser Hussain, who stepped in at short notice for his first taste of England's Victory would give Atherton's senior captaincy after Atherton one-dayer with back trouble.

"Nasser did very well on Sunday," Lloyd said yesterday. "He was calm when we didn't bowl as well as we can at the start and I thought that New Zealand were about 30 or 40 runs short at the end. He also gives a terrific example in the field, because be's as good as anything in the world. One of the things that has pleased me most on this tour has been our

aggressive fielding side.

"We've bad many good things happen on this tour," Lloyd added, "but the one incident which for me stood out like a beacon was when Phil Tufnell hit the stumps and ran someone out during the Christchurch Test.

"I've been delighted with the results of the first two one-dayers, giving us four international wins on the trot, but we can still improve. These one-day matches, at the end of our

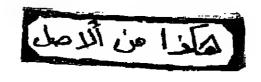
tour, are very important because we know from what happened in Zimbabwe - bow you can be judged on what occurs in the last

rounder, who failed to complete his bowling spell at Auckland because of cramp, played only because of Atherton's withdrawal but impressed with his steadiness with the ball and

ran out Adam Parore. "I had not played for three weeks, so that does make it dif-One player desperate to keep his place in the England side is determined to give it everything," Irani said. "That's what Rounie Irani. The Essex all- I have come on this near for and now I just want to play again.

sharpness in the field when he

ficult, but I felt good and very There are three one day matches left and ideally I'd like to play in all of them. There's no problem with my fitness - I don't think I've been fitter."



sport

Oxford president has throne but no seat

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MARY MALT THE INDEPENDE

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#### 7.30 unless stated NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE PRIST DIVISION Crystal Palace v Reading (7.45) ........ Scothend v Norwich (7.45) ...... SECOND DIVISION Biockpool v Burnley

Football

Sincispool v Bernstey
Bristol Revent v Plysoueth
Barry v Wreches (7.45)
Milliand v Notics County (7.45)
Wattord v Stressbury (7.45)
Wycosbe v Peterborough (7.45)

net v Lincoln (7.45) deridge Utd v Sounthorpe (7.45) TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP FOURTH-ROUND REPLAY ndee Utd v Hearts

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE

Piret Division. Beaugistele v Walton & Hersham, Berlinensted V-Herspton (7.85). Second DN-electrosisters by Peter v Coller Row & Remfood (7.45); Lastherfreed v Benssend (7.45); Tibury v Edgestry (7.45). Vasseties Institutes Cop sensi-fiest Stat leg: Business v Setton Utd (7.45); Kingstonien v Börehem Wood. Kingsonten v Boeshen Wood.

"Bewrone sachtigen Lisabite Presider Divisione
Bury Tourn v Gorbactis (7.48); Hadhagh v Tipome
(7.48); Hattend Vaudowy Town (7.48); Lowestoft.

v One, (7.46); Wisson v Harvish & Perisation (8.0);
Woodhridge v Greet Vermouth (7.45); Wrod'um
v Nasarmileis (7.45).

Whodaridge v Greet Yermouth (7,45); Wrodram v Neutomatic (7,45).

JEWSON WEBSEK LEARNIN: Lymington v Be-metan Health Hedgars; Thatchen's Chainteach Pent Division: Neutomatic Colorida of Theorem of Colorida of Tradeol Romes v Neutomatic Health Division: Neutomatic Visigova v Reveals Town, Third-round replay: Storage v Neutomatic Town, Third-round replay: Storage Cap from the Town of Third Visignal Plant Town of Third Neutomatic Town, Third-round v Shoreham, Nach Visignal Round Town of Third Town of Third Town v Neutomatic Third-round v Neutomatic Third-round v Neutomatic Third-round v Neutomatic Third Town of Third Third Neutomatic Third Town of Third Third Neutomatic Third Town of Third Third Neutomatic Third Third Neutomatic Third Third Neutomatic Third Thir

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(7.45); Shade Green v Hytho; Themastroad v Brootwith (7.45); Whistable v Follestone.
ACDITION BREWERY MORTHERN LEAGUE.
Plint Division; Souds v Badington Tenary Stockton v Consett.
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Wadnesday v Learpool (7,0). First Disinional
Sheffield Uts v West (Dromatch (7,0)) (at Don Wale
y Stantium); Sundarland v Middlestvough (7,0)

#### ice bockey Staffeld 2; Newcastle 4 Brackett 8.

FINAL TABLE

P W D L OL F A Pts

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Rugby League

Rugby Union

REGDY USEPURE SCOTIAND UNDER 21. (v lesiand Under-21., Friday 26 February): 8 Tomilason (Selfurt): D Bull (Edinburgh Andernicais), J Mayer (Wat-sonsors), A Bulloch (West of Scotland), A

ANON ENSURANCE COM

Rugby Union REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Lacester v Barber-inne (7.45). CLUS MATCHES: Lydney v Rosel Air Force (7.0); Oxford v Oxford University (7.15); Richmond v Roy-

BOUGHER British light-mickleveight title contest Ryan Rhodes (Shelfield, holder) v Peter Waucky (Hull) (at Historoogh Leleure Centre, Shelfield).

TODAY'S NUMBER

2,000

The number of tickets remaining for the four days of the British Grand Prix meeting at Silverstone, even though there is still nearly five months until the event. Attendance for the Grand Prix on Sunday 13 July, is limit-

## Keighley draw cup holders **Saints**

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

Keighley Cougars, the one side from outside the top flight to beat Super League opposition in this year's Silk Cut Challenge Cup, have been drawn to meet the holders, St Helens, in the quarter-finals.

The club, which has been in the hands of administrators recently, beat Halifax on Sunday but have been rewarded with the toughest of tasks against the Cup favourites, who fear that they will be without their influential Australian second-row Derek McVey, who could have fractured a wrist.

The other First Division survivors, but ones with a proud Challenge Cup traditioo -Featherstone Rovers - are at Leeds, while last season's beaten finalists, Bradford Bulls, travel to Oldham, who have never been to Wembley. Perhaps the best tie, howev-

er, is at Warrington, where a resurgent Salford, who expect to have their stand-off and goal-kicker, Steve Blakeley, back in action to boost their chances, are the visitors. That is a likely choice for the televised match on 8 March; the remaining ties will be played the following day.

The parallel Silk Cut Plate competition has thrown up the prospect of a Leeds derby in the semi-finals, If Bramley can beat Widnes in their delayed quarter-final next Sunday, they will meet their near neighbours from Hunslet on 16 March, Leigh are at home to Hull KR in the other semi-final.

It is a case of one step back, one step forwards for the game in South Wales. The coach of the side that played in the Second Division last season and was due to join Super League this time, Clive Griffiths, has pulled out of a plan to establish an Academy side in the area. Almost simultaneously, the

League has said it is to employ

a development officer to boost

the grass-roots appeal of the code in the principality.

Bradford Bulls have responded to speculation that they are intending to take over York, the Second Division club up for sale for £1. The Bradford chairman, Chris Caisley, would not confirm or deny the move

hut said: "We're a progressive club and always on the look out for business opportunities. "Our strategic plan is to expand the Bulls' supporter base

to a national level and anything which will assist us to do that is Richie Eyres, the former Widnes and Leeds forward who

has been playing union with SELK CUIT CHALLENGE CUP Quarter-Gund drawt Keighley Cougars v St Helerst Oldhem Bassa v Bradford Bulls, Leeds Rhinos v Feath-erstone Rovers Wennigson Wokes v Salbrid Rinds (Ilies to be played 8 or 9 Morch).

#### at this stage, and they are pretweek to wind and our selection freshman at 24, is topped at 6ft There is an encouraging numty close to the Dutch eight at this is not quite complete," he said. 7/m by the president, Ayer, ber of British undergraduates who have got in ahead of older The crew will be stroked on who is a touch under 6ft 9in. Robin Williams, the coach in It appears that Cambridge bow side by James Ball, last postgraduate students from will be a fraction taller and oldcharge of the Cambridge squad, year's winner. Behind him on abroad. Even in Bellamy's case,

suggested there could vet be stroke side are four enormous

# Hansen loses world title chance

Rowing HUGH MATHESON

Ed Bellamy, the Oxford Boat Club president, made boat race

history when he left himself

out of the crew to take on Cambridge, which he announced yesterday. On 29 March, he will instead row for the Dark

Bellamy, a hlue in 1996, was

elected president by the crew last

May and has rowed every mile that Oxford crews have travelled

since then, but he lost out at the last stage of crew selection.

Bellamy has entrusted the

training and choice of his crew

to René Mijnders, who coached

the Dutch eight to Olympic gold

in Atlanta. After making his challenge to the Cambridge

president, Ethan Ayer, yester-day Bellamy said: "That is how

it is now, and will stay, unless of course people stop per-forming well."

In the past, presidents have stepped down, but none of Bel-

lamy's predecessors has rowed in the Isis-Goldie race for the

reserves. He pointed out that Oxford has not beaten Goldie since 1989 and that confidence

in this breeding ground is low. He said: "I would like to win it

as an achievement for myself

and because it will give inspi-

oarsmen who we will depend on

Minders said that selection

was a continuous process. "It

only became clear in the last

week or so," he said. "We have

done some lactate tests, which

illustrate the fitness of the crews

ration to the up-and-comin

next vear."

**Athletics** 

MIKE ROWBOTTOM Ashia Hansen, who has twice beaten the world's top ranked triple jumper this year, will not have the chance of registering a tilifu such victory at the World

Indoor Championships in two Hansen, who beat Rodica Petrescu-Matee of Romania in Bir-mingham on Sonday with an athletes asked for was consiseffort just one centimetre short of her British record of 14.58 metres, was not named yesterday in the team for Parison 7 to 9 March

because she missed the world indoor trials a fortnight ago. The omission of the 25-yearold American-born jumper which was heavily signalled by Britain's chief coach, Malcolm Arnold, on Sunday - leaves Britain with only two obvious gold medal challengers: Jamie Baulch in the 400 metres and Steve Smith in the high jump, although both 400 metres relay

teams look capable of earning a medal as well.

O'Sullivan off

in a sulk

Romie O'Sullivan suffered an

embarrassing defeat in the Eu-

ropean Open in Malta yester-

day - and then claimed he

might quit the sport.
The former United Kingdom

and Masters champion looked

uninterested for much of his first-

round match before losing 5-1 to

the methodical Scot, Chris Small O'Sullivan, who slammed

the balls about indiscriminately during the last frame and took on a number of highly ambitious pots, added: "I couldn't wait to

get out of there. I am just play-ing terrible, I hate the game and I don't want to play any more."

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SKISNAPSHOT

"I have spoken to Ashia and she is upset," Arnold said. "It's sad. I have an enormous regard for her, and after Atlanta I've said she was one of our stars for

some fine-tuning of his crew.

"We lost a week in January to

ice and a couple of days last

"But she knew the rules. All the athletes were sent a letter last December telling them what the selection guidelines were. We will be damned for selecting her, but we will be

what we have done. Hansen, who missed the trials because she was training and competing in South Africa, said: "I knew there were to be trials before I went but my trip was already arranged and I knew I wouldn't be back in time. I was told the team wasn't going to be picked until February 23 so 1 thought there would be

time to get in some good per-formances after the trials." The performances have indeed been good, but sadly for Hansen and Britain the small

print has not been attended to.

Turkey expects over 4,000 perticipants in the first World Air Games to be held later this year in the country from 13 to 21 September. The 17 events include

parachusing, gliding, hang-gliding, mi-cro-fight, bellooning, model planes, helicopter and plane rallies. Turkey was chosen to host the games by the Paris-

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Chester Jets 97 Der-by Storn 88; Leopards 90 Manchester Glinds 63; London Towers 93 Thannes Valley Tigos 85; Sheffield Sharte 94 Newcastle Engles 70.

85; Shoffield Sharles 94 Newcastle Englos 70.

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SNOW REPORT - in association with Thomas Cook Ski Direct

Around the resorts

Pal.....Best at altitude Pas de la Casa ...Wom lower down

Basketball

**Athletics** 

ing that he had fin. But he could have done without the jitter-loducing wait until last Friday,

men: David Cassidy and

est at 6ft 4m. Alex Storey, a

comes, as expected, the first athlete from this country to win an international vest after returning from a four-year drugs ban. Livingston, European indoor champion five years ago, will do very well to get a medal given the cbullicut form of rivals such .

as Ray Stewart, Bruny Surin, and the in-form Ato Boldon. The best hopes for a champion lie with Baulch, who beat the reigning champion Darnell Hail for a fourth consecutive. time at the weekend, and Smith, .

the Olympic bronze medallist

whose winning effort of 2.34

NBA: Houston 95 San Antonio 85; New Jessey 109 Boston 95; Defroit 85 Weshington 79; LA Cappars 98 Melweutee 66; Caveland 81 Van-causer 84; New York, 121 LA Laisen 121, 12 orty; Swittle 89 Ultim 87 Got?: Ortando 99 Indiana 90; Marris 95 Demer 86; Defles 88 Phoenic 86.

RED STROPE CUP (Third day of four) Discovery Bay, Jamelon: Sycholos 184 and 223; Jamelon 180 and 105. Rechandon bent Jamelon by 123. nams. The Nalley, Amplifice Leowed Islands 185 and 195 for 7 (K-Arthanton 93no); Werdward te-lands 199. Port of Spain, Trinidad: Trinidad and Tologo 305 and 149 for 3 (B lara 72); Guyana 241. (D Remnarine 5-69).

Hohir Mayock, who set a metres on Sunday puts him top of the world rankings.

Sunday, will no doubt be relieved to see his name on the team sheet. He also missed the trials, but provided the selectors with a doctor's note vouchsafing that he had fin. But he could taining her comeback after being carried injured from the Olympics, hopes to do the same

Cambridge University's light blue crew for the Boat Race get a good look at their opponents at yesterday's announcement of the line-ups

normal criteria.

Damien Maltarp are the short- crews are very close on all the

er, and Oxford will have a mar-

ginal weight advantage, but the

when he received his first in- alongside Phyliss Smith, who dication that his case would be beffered Ginnell's British looked on kindly. damned if we don't. What the looked on kindly.

athletes asked for was consistency in selection and that is 600 metres trials winner belooked on kindly.

Trecord on Sunday.

Trecord on Sunday. salgan, Partis, 7-b Marreh) MEN: 60m J LyIngston; (Statischuny), J Gardener (Basts and 
Wessen), 200w O Turner (Canoth), J Golding 
(Blackhesth), 400m J Badich (Carolh), M Hyino (Windsor, Stouth and Eston), 800m A Hert 
(Coventry - Godwe), - 1,500m J Carrobell 
(Hatriste), 3,000m J Grime (Newham and Essed, J Mayock (Carrock and Spatis), 60m hardines C Richorn (Recorn), O Greenes (Newham and Essed, J Hagh Jump S Smith (Hyerpoot Harders), O Grant (Haringsy), Shot M Streon (Relgrave Hamfers), M Protor (RM), Av400m 6
Schlick (Migen), A Patrick (Windser Stough and 
Eston), S Badtock (Hastings), R Knowless (Bitchfield), Windsitz: 1500m 8 Smithits (Cromingsort), 3,000m 5 Midden (Smithits (Cromingsort), 3,000m 5 Middensy (Returning) Pole 
Vaulit C Grave (Essex Lodes), M Dunistry (Ketneting) Pole 
Vaulit C Grave (Essex Lodes), M Smithits (CromBritishell), J Sharre (Coverny Godws), J Stoute 
(Essex Lodes), Goth (Marridson (W, Sant 
), 8 Kooth (Houssloy), 200m K Marry (Bathfield Harriers, O France (Covydon), 400m P 
Smith (Sale), S Gunnell (Essex Lodes), 
800m H Perry (Swenteso), O Modahi (Sale).

#### **Henman back** to his best in world rankings Tennis

he is in contention with Charlie

Humphreys, Both learned to

row at Hampton School andwere

junior internationals. Bellamy ar-

rived at Oxford via Durham

University and a gold medal in

the Under-23 World Champi-

onships while Humphreys came straight from school.

Tim Henman, despite his defeat by Marc Rosset in the European Community Championship final in Antwerp oo Sunday, has

risen five places from 19 to 14 in the latest ATP world rankings. This equals his highest placing, which he achieved when he won the Sydney International. his first ATP Tour victory, ear-ly last month. Since then, he has English badminton by refusing his first ATP Tour victory, earlost in the third round of the Australian Open and the first

round of the Dubai Open. Greg Rusedski, who is competing in the Advanta Champinnships in Philadelphia this week, has risen one place from 36 to 35, despite withdrawing from the Memphis tournament last week with wrist problems. Boris Becker, blaming con-

timing wrist pains, pulled out of the Italian Indoor Tournament which began in Milan yesterday. Doctors have ordered him to

#### Badminton where I reached the semi-finals I have played badminton for eight years for my country. I am England's leading internationunable to fund myself without the support of the BA of E, so it is easy for them to have total

BOAT RACE CREWS

Muggeridge makes

plain her displeasure

al women's player, Joanne Muggeridge, has written a letter of complaint to the Badminton Association of England's chief executive, Geoffrey Snowden, about her removal from the national training squad.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY

C P A Humphreys (Orie), T J C Foster (Unix of London and St Cross), R Blands (Besence College), L Bubbor (Somewille), J B Roycroft (Veble), J Irving (Veble), A J R Lindsay (Brasencae), N J Robinson

Muggeridge claims the England manager, Steve Baddeley, to include her in the squad and declining to fund her to tournaments. An argument between

her and Baddeley on Friday ended with her pouring a can of Coke over the manager's head. The Kent player alleges that she has been unfairly treated; that injuries had prevented her from playing in British Grand Slam tournaments, but that she

is now back to fitness. "The question of my fitness is not in doubt," Muggeridge said. "I have recently returned

from a trip to the Indian Open

stantial sums of money likely to come into the game shortly through lottery funding. . Baddeley said that he was asking Muggeridge's training to be monitored by the national

Notaen (Boroughmuir); T Lightoller (String County), & Benedings (Boroughmuir) (2001) P Fitzgerald (Networlers), & Doolearty (GHC, GMC) P Fitzgerald (Networlers), & Doolearty (GHC, GMC) (Full action (Durice HSFP), A Cadoow (Docughmuir), J Deberse (Girhung) Academics), I Shacker (Networlers), and Shelmann Academics), I Shacker (Networlers), & Debplack (Gels, P Singason (Girhung), Academics), & MaCalline (Docughmuir, N Menni (Gristo University), & Parte (Bosoughmuir), & Hodgeon (Newcastle).

EUROPEAN OPEN (Walletta, Malta) First vounde C Small (Soo) bt R O'Sullivan (Eng. 5-1: O Morgan (Wal) bt A Hemilton (Eng. 5-3: A Hicks (Eng) bt M Williams (Wal) 5-3; S Lee (Eng) bt S Davis (Eng.) 5-0; A Robidoux (Carl) bt Clark (Eng) 5-4.

Photograph: David Ashdown

CAMERIDGE UNIVERSITY (from)

CAMBrouse: Universally (prom)
E D Aper (St Erhmund's House), R.J Pirm
(Downing), J Ball (Robinson College), R
E Bradahaw Cromble (Peterhouse), A Story
(St Erhmund's), T.J Wellace (Jesus), D
P S Malitarp (Irinity College), A R Wellaon (Sidney Sussex), II.J Cassidy (Irinity).

control over my career. As a

professional player, my only

concern is to play for my coun-

try," she said. She accused Baddeley of

being unfair and uncooperative.

and added: "I will be writing a

cerned that her removal from

the élite squad will lose her the

chance to benefit from sub-

Muggeridge is especially con-

letter of complaint."

coach, Asger Madsen.
"If she does this and if there is an improvement, then she

worthy of consideration."

could be put back into the squad," Baddeley said. "We are not doubting her ability. She could be in the world's top 20."

#### rest for three weeks. SPORTING DIGEST

Football Norwich City yesterday signed the Spurs defender Kevin Scott for £250,000 after a successful loon spell at Carrow Road. The 30-year-old has signed a three-year contract.

Cycling
The Ization team, MG Technogym, took the top three piaces after the soft stage of the Le Tour de Langlewi chemplorship in Kuzia Lumpur yesterday. MG Technogy celebrated their win when Luca Scinto was the first to pess the finishing line in 2hr 19min Jeec in the 71.8km (44.2mg) race from Bukit Kara to Genting Highlands. Scinto's team-mate, Paolo Bettini, carm is ascond and Nobel Lode, who won the green jersey in Stage Four

at Carrow Road. The 30-year-old has signed a three-year contract. Ian Hendon, the former England Under-21 defender, has Joined Notis County in a £100,000 deal from Leyton Orient, with the Magnies paying £50,000 now and a further £50,000 after a set number of appearances.

Jack Taylor, the referee of the 1974 World Cup final between West Germany and the Netherlands in Munich, is recovering in a Birmingham hospital following a suspected stroke.

Ketth Welch, the goalleaper in contract disputs with Bidspi City, has joined Bradford City on trial. Chris Karnara is looking for a new keeper after selling Mark Schwarzer to Middlestmough last week. FA CARLING PREMIERSHEP Re-arranged datase Wed 12 Mark West Ham V Cheleo. The 8 Aper Wimbleton v Auton Villa. Wed 9 Aper Emigrary Leicestar.

NATIONOMIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE Re-arranged datase The 4 Mark Bury v Street-bury. Wed 12 Mark Queer's Perk Rangers v Rescing. The £8 Mark Schwarzer to Visit Mark Schwarzer to General Perk Rangers v Rescing. The £8 Mark Schwarzer to Visit Mark Schwarzer to Visit Mark Schwarzer to Visit Mark Schwarzer to Middlestmough Payer Rangers v Rescing. The £8 Mark Schwarzer to Visit Res. 15 Apr. Busy v Crawe.

GOST

TUCSON GLASSIC (Artzona) Lauding finel scores: (We stiese stated; 276 ) Surren 75 65,65 67. 276 \$ Junes 68 69 72 70. 277 Pad byen 68 69 67 72; P Surren 68 69 72 70. 277 Pad byen 68 69 67 72; P Surren 68 69 72 70. 277 Pad 50; S Tom Rise 69 70 71. 56; P Housey 67 73 76 65; I Magger 68 72 70 71. 56; I Magger 70 72 67 70; I Mag 69 70 72, Lyshoun 72 71. 66 69; C Rose 68 71 70 72, Lyshoun 72 71. 67 70; I Mag 72 65 69 74. 72 65; I Magger 70 72 67 70; I Mag 72 60 69 74 72 65; I Magger 70 72 67 70; I Mag 72 60 69 74 72 65; I Magger 70 72 61 70; I Mag 72 72 65; I Mag 72 72 65; I Mag 72 72 65; I Mag 72 71 68; I Mag 67 71 69 71 72 71 68; I Mag 67 74 69 71 72 72 69; I Mag 67 74 69 71; Mag 72 73 69; I Mag 67 74 69 71; Mag 72 73 69; I Mag 67 74 69 70 70. 287 5 Applety (Jun) 73 72 73 69; I Mag 73 73 73 73 69; I Mag 73 73 69; I M

Hockey HA CUP Quarter-denie: Corrock v Teddingtor; Surbson v Guidlood; Old Loughsonians v Resd-ing: St Albans v Chelmsford. (Ties to be played on Sunday 13 April).

TODAY'S FIXTURES

\*\*CL column Indicates garnes lett in custime. Resint are awarded one point for each loss. NREL IV Idendees 4 Pittoburgh 1; Dallac 6 Ed-monton 1: Terms Bay 4 San Jose 2; Buffelo 5 Boaton 1: Celjišny 6 St Loss 2; Ranhanfalo 5 Roston 2: Celjišny 6 St Loss 2; Ranhanfalo 5 Van-couver 2; Philidelphia 2 MY Reegers 1.

Leigh Centurions have signed the 26-year-old former Oldham and Wigan util-ity back Scen Tyrer on three-months loan from their Second Division rivals White-

pridge (Aus) 6-3 6-4.

MILAN INDOOR TOURNAMENT Men's singles first round; O'Vacci (Cr Rep) bt F Whiter (Neth) 6-3 7-6; J Sancher (Sp) bt C Costs (Spin) 4-6 6-3 6-2; K Nucera (Slovaki bt C Caratti (t) 8-4 8-2; A Ushrach (Cr Rep) bt A Contiga (Sp) 7-6 6-0.

IGA WOMEN'S CLASSIC (Oldohomm City) Final: L Devenport (US) bt L Raymond (US) 6-4 6-2.

5-7 JUDE MEN'S TOURNAMENT (Mecuphia, Tournesses) Final: M Chang (US) bt 7 Wood-bridge (Aug) 6-3 6-4.

Serine

Kyokushuzan (real name Betbayar Byokushuzan (real name Betbayar Bevea), from Mongola, will be promoted to sumo's fourth highest position in the Spring Grand Tournament next month, according to rankings released yester-day. Kyokushuzan 3, was the ritin foreign westers promoted to longer to become komusubi. The four other foreign westers promoted to longual and above have all been from the United States.

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Dark Blue's blues President rules himself out of Boat Race, page 23



# Germany dismiss idea of joint bid

#### Football

England and Germany are back in competition for the right to stage the 2006 World Cup after both sides reiterated their intention to go it alone yesterday.

Reports that Egidius Braun. the president of the German Foothall Association, bad mooted the possibility of a joint bid by the two on Sunday were deemed to be the result of interpretation problems by offi-cials in Frankfurt.

Alec McGivan, in charge of England's bid, also remained insistent that the idea of a joint initiative looked a non-starter after Fifa, the world governing body, announced they would dismiss such a proposal.

"Our position remains unchanged because we still feel that England has a very strong case for staging the 2006 finals and we already have a lot of support from around the world," McGivan said.

Braun's remarks on German television were misconstrued to indicate that the two poles of thought over the rival European hids were now coming together. A spokesman for the German FA said yesterday: "Our president never spoke about a joint bid and it was all a case of

"During the programme, in which he was talking about the German hid alone, Mr Braun talked about having a split Eu-

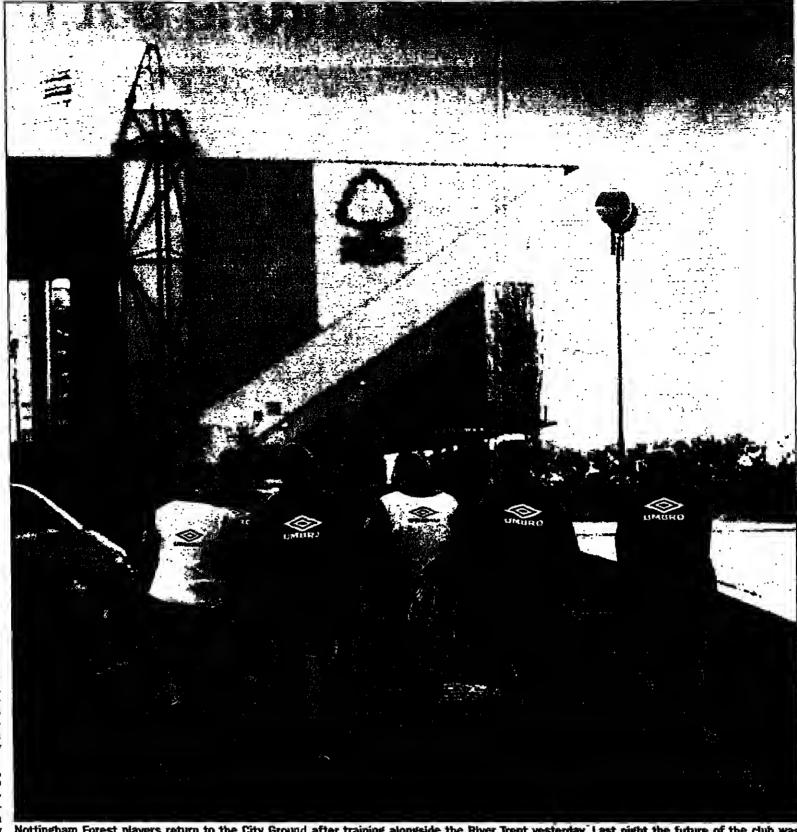
hid from Germany. What he meant was that two bids would come from Europe - one from us and one from England, but his comments lost something in the translation to make it seem that he was calling for a joint bid. That is not the case.'

The finals will be shared for the first time when Japan and Korea co-host the event in 2002, but Fifa insists this will be a "one-off" arrangement with an immediate switch back to the traditional single-country for-

mat thereafter. The world governing body's stance did not surprise the FA. but McGivan believes that the idea of a joint bid will almost certainly rear its bead again before the outcome is announced in June 2000.

The row over the 2006 finals broke ont earlier this month when Uefa announced it was backing Germany's bid and claimed to be unaware of England's rival stance. Since then, England have at least won a concession from the sport's European governing body that it will examine both countries' cases. Both will push their claims when Uefa's executive committee meets on 17 April, with Uefa declaring that it will only support one bid.

But with South Africa, Brazil Argentina, Egypt and Morocco also expected to submit bids before the Fifa-imposed deadline in 1999, it is not even certain if Europe will actually



Nottingham Forest players return to the City Ground after training alongside the River Trent yesterday, Last night the future of the club was

# Dalglish bid for Murphy refused League ignores pleas

ALAN NIXON

Kenny Dalglish has had a £1.5m bid for Crewe's Danny Murphy rejected by the Second Division manager wanted to sign the teenage striker with the cash he raised from selling Paul Kitson.

Liverpool apparently have first option on Murphy. Dalglish has made an offer that the Anfield club will not match, but Crewe's manager, Dario Gradi, would rather keep Murpby at the moment and sell the midfielder Gareth Whallevinstead. Whalley has recently been at

Liverpool on trial, but there appears to be no prospect a permanent deal at the moment.

The England goalkeeping coach, Ray Clemence, has denied that be will be working for

Southampton when his England duties allow, as weekend reports had suggested. "I'm not employed by Southampton in any capacity. I have a full-time job as the Football Association's naformer Liverpool and Totten-ham keeper said yesterday.

Graeme Sharp has been "severely censured" by the Football Association after being found guilty of misconduct for comments made to a referee while he was the manager of Oldham Athletic. Sbarp, who left the Boundary Park club two weeks ago, made the remarks to the Cambridgeshire referee, Mike Bailey, at half-time during Oldham's 2-1 win over Manchester City on 21 December.

John Toshack is interested in manager's joh. The Welshman

British football after leaving the Spanish cluh, Deportivo La Coruña, and he has let Rovers know he is keen on the post. He has not worked in domestic club foothall since his spell at Swansea over a decade ago.

Brian Laws, the former Grimsby manager, is the new manager of Scunthorpe United. He replaces Mick Buxton, who ended his second spell at the Humberside club by mutual agreement earlier this month.

Laws, sacked by Grimsby last November, is the 22nd managerial change at Scun-thorpe since World War II. Mark Lillis, who was in charge for last Saturday's home win over play-off chasing Colchester, bas been upgraded from the vacant Blackburn Rovers coach to assistant manager. Leicester City's manager,

is available for a return to Martin O'Neill, is interested in The Football League yesterday signing Port Vale's left-winger Steve Guppy in a £1m deal. Vale are poised to sell Guppy, who played under O'Neill at Wycombe, after he rejected a new

> The Aston Villa midfielder Sasa Curcic has put in a transfer request - which will mean him losing at least £100,000 in bonuses. Curcic would still have been entitled to the money mainly from signing-on fees had he not formally asked for

a move. Manchester City's manager, Frank Clark, wants conclusive contract talks with Steve Lomas, who has attracted interest from Coventry. Clark is going to ask the Northern Ireland midfielder if be is keen to extend his deal at Maine Road. If not, he could be sold quickly.

decreed that the Nationwide season will not be extended beyond 4 May, despite the threat of fixture congestion.

Manchester City have regislikelihood that Northern Ireland's two World Cup qualifying games with Portugal and Ukraine will discupt their Easter programme.

Scotland also have two qualifiers, against Estonia and Austria, arranged for the same week, while the Second Division chibs. Wrexbarn and Stockport, have been in touch with Lytham over the problems that their respective FA Cup and Coca-Cola Cup campaigns have brought to their promotion bids.

A Football League spokes-man, Chris Hull, said: "Manchester City's main worry was

the dislocation of their season through international call-ims, while Stockport and Wrexham's cup commitments have caused them problems. But there is no comp week, we did not have spe-question of the League ex- cific dates when our fixtures

Saturday 3 May and Sunday 4 We have put forward a proposal to Manchester City that we feel will ease their worries, while our contact with both Wresham and Stockport has just been a case of lizising with the two clubs to help them balance

their remaining fixtures."
The week beginning Saturday 29 March was designated for World Cup qualifiers by Fifa, the world governing body, well in advance of the League announcing its own fixtures, and Walcs play host to Belgium travel to Macedonia. Hull explained: "Although

we knew that it was a World scheduled final weekend of Northern Ireland and Scotland will play on the Saturday and then again in midweek means that we will lose the weekend as

well as the following midweek. "It means it becomes an even more difficult balancing act for us, but we feel that there will be no real problem in fitting in all the games by the designated end of season date."

## **Fury over** attack on **Juventus** team bus

Sergio Campana, the head of the Italian players unto a has called for British-style policing at Italy's grounds in the wake of Sunday's attack on the

Juventus team bus-Windows were shattered and glass fragments sprayed over players and officials in the attack by a group of Fiorentina tank, who ambushed the bus on its way to the stadium in Florence.

No one was injured, but the attack caused outrage among leading figures in Italian fort-ball and was be discussed yes terday at a meeting of Campana's union in Rome. Campana is particularly angry that none of the stone-threwers have been caught by the police.

What I can't understand. and much less tolerate, is the fact that an offence committed by an individual goes punished but when it's a group of feetball fans, then impunity becomes the rule," he said.

"This tolerance of gang behaviour is becoming danger-ous," he warned, adding that Italy needed to learn from Britain's example when it comes to crowd control. "In England, if a fan throws something on to the pitch, be soon finds himself in handcuffs and the following

day he's in court.
"Here in Italy, people have been turning a blind eye to things for too long."

Sunday's incidents, which included scuffles involving police and fans, followed missile-throwing earlier this month at Reggiana's match against Parma,

"It's not enough for the referee to pick the objects up and give them to the fourth match official as if nothing had happened," Campana said.

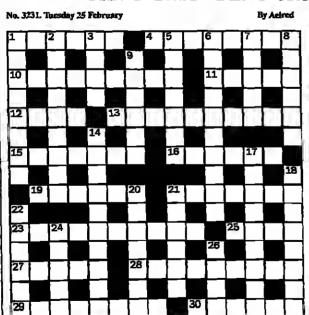
The Fjorentina president, Vittorio Cecchi Gori, described the youths who carried out Sunday's attack as "delinquents, like those who kill people by dropping stones from motorway bridges" a recent phenomenon in Italy. Cecchi Gori added that he

had offered to go in front of the Juventus team bus next season. "But these sort of people would still throw stones," he said. "They are not Fiorentina fans and they don't even deserve

to be talked about." The Juventus coach, Marcello Lippi, aware of the intense rivalry between Fiorentina and is always accompanied by tension, and in this case by an ugh episode. But on the pitch, the players showed their concentration and their professional-

Fiorentina may be punished for what happened, with the club possibly being told to play a home match away from their own ground.

#### THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



ACROSS 1 Preserve lots of money, about 25 Smart result of reduction in a bundred thousand (6)
4 Go wrong regularly but not

extremely as an individual (8) 10 Liberal about to get sanctimonious when restricting a Conservative (9) 11 Algerian port accommodates

good liver? (5) 12 What you pay to go to China?

ty? (7.3) 15 Record set in rocky work by

him? (7) 16 One directing cattle by day with typical dog (6)
19 Fine fabric is new in the mar-

ket place (6) 21 Ardent support from a new Democratic club (7) 23 Power shown by Forster novel about mum in typical part of

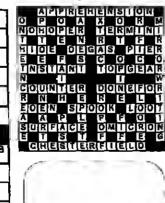
egg product? (4) Music about Princess's lines

28 Bell tower in Pennsylvania in confluence of rivers (9) 29 English mother's given up parenthood for ever (8) 30 Plague old Queen to have saint arrested (6)

13 Perhaps legislation of the Dail 1 I do better coming up to pm which shows nature's perversiout fire as a calm type (8) Rich clothing about clergy-man grabbed one (9)

3 Long church to south of see?

Hero's repeatedly pious in a could be so described (5)



About to get famous, eliminating monarchy and achiev-

Feature of newspaper respon-sible for a row? Certainly not 14 For one on own no allowance is made in speecb (10) 17 Change of heart with anger

ing this? (6)

produces a safety device (5,4) 18 Shoplifters, it could be said, of underwear (8) 20 After short month company will take short time to produce fruit (7) 21 Take for granted amount to

be dumped in sea is variable (4)
(6)
Popular drink I had found to
22 Be merciful, keeping sabbath
with few neighbours? (6) 24 Go on horse maintain minor way (5-5) gravity in high ground (5)
Support by a head of law-firm 26 Expert holds onto upper-class painting of little ment (4)

# **Celts' TV fears grow**

Rugby Union CHRIS HEWETT

Leading rugby figures in Wales, Scotland and Ireland are deeply concerned that satellite television's increasing control of broadcasting rights will undermine the sport's attempt to establish itself as a genuine worldwide attraction. The Celts, who are awaiting con-firmation from BSkyB that a proposed multi-million pound deal has fallen through, are hoping to announce alternative agreements with terrestrial com-

panies within the next few days. Their problem is that the income guaranteed under those agreements is unlikely to ap-proach the figures originally discussed with Rupert Murdoch's men. England, meanwhile, are sitting pretty, baving settled an £87.5m deal with Sky

Yesterday, both the Welsh and Scottish unions insisted hucrative terrestrial deals were near finalisation. Charlie Bisset, the Scottish Rugby Union negotiator, said the Scots' agreement was satisfactory in terms of television exposure and income, while Vernon Pugh, the Weish Rngby Union chairman, waxed lyrical about his country's deal, thought to be with BBC Wales.

However, it now seems certain that England's position as the richest, most powerful and most commercially attractive rugby na-tion will be reinforced, leaving the Celts as poor neighbours. A similar scenario has occurred south of the equator, where Murdoch's buy-up of New Zealand, South African and Australian rughy effectively ostracised many of the smaller countries - Western

as well as a £20m revised jersey Samoa, Fiji, Canada and Arcontract with Nike. as essential components of the game's international fabric.

BSkyB have yet to give their side of the story, but it is common knowledge that senior company negotiators were less than amused by the rebellion against England's decision to agree a unilateral Five Nations broadcasting deal. Pugh is against any move to a satellite monopoly, claiming rugby needs the widest exposure as much as a bank account full of Murdoch money.

Negotiations over the rights to next season's expanded Heineken European Cup are likely to prove fractions and it is still not clear which terrestrial company, if any, will team up with Sky to broadcast England international matches when the current Five Nations' Championship comes to an end.

## Prize fund increased for Open

ANDY FARRELL

For anyone for whom holding

aloft the old silver jug is not enough, the financial reward of winning golf's oldest crown is being brought into line with the other majors. For the second year running, prize-money at the Open has been given a significant boost by the Royal & Ancient. This year's winner of the

126th Championship at Royal

Troon will receive £250,000, out of a total purse of £1.6m. Exactly double John Daly's winnings in 1995, the first prize shows an increase of £50,000 on what Tom Lehman took home last year. Nick Faldo won £300,000 at the US Masters and Steve Jones £283,000 at the US Open.

Further down the field, all those making the cut will receive at least £5,250, while the leading non-qualifiers can earn up to £1,000. Previously, all those who missed the cut received £650.

"We believe that the Open should continue to review the prize-money, not only at the top but throughout the field," Michael Bonallack, the secretary of the R&A, said.

When combined with our far-reaching exemption policy and in recognition of the cost of competing in the championship for overseas players, we feel that we have put in place those two elements which effectively will maintain the international strength of the field,"

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# **Deposit Box**



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